

PARKS PERSPECTIVE

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Parks Division*

MARCH, 1984

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Tea Kettle FAS on the Flathead River near Columbia Falls offers river access for boaters and fishermen as well as being a popular site for picnickers.

**PARKS
PERSPECTIVE**

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The Coming SCORP Cycle

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Park System

The State Park System

The embryo which would eventually mature into Montana's present State Park System began to develop in 1929. In this year, a Kiwanis club supported bill was passed by the legislature which designated the state forester as state park director. In 1934, Morrison Cave (then designated as Lewis and Clark National Monument and now named Lewis and Clark Caverns) became Montana's first state park. Sale of the cave's admission tickets was the Park System's principle source of revenue from 1939 until 1947 when the first legislative appropriation was made for park purposes. Up to 1947, five parks had been donated to the Park System, but appropriated funding allowed the system to grow to thirteen sites by 1953. In an effort to consolidate state government, in March 1953, all park functions were transferred from the State Forester's Office to the State Highway Commission. In 1965, the Fish and Game Department (name changed to Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in 1979) accepted responsibility for recreation management and all park functions were again transferred. This latter transfer was made in order to coordinate all park and recreation activities under a single parent agency, where it resides yet today.

As you will read in the remainder of this publication, the Parks Division has been and continues to be very active in providing outdoor recreational opportunities for the state's inhabitants and visitors. The Park System now includes over 300 parks, monuments, recreation areas, waterways, roads, trails, and fishing access sites. Operation and maintenance of snowmobile and motorboat facilities is the responsibility of the Parks Division and other special interest outdoor recreation groups often turn to the Division and the Department for assistance. In addition, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks through the Parks Division administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal grants-in-aid program for local and state outdoor recreation projects. For details on these and other current activities, please read on.

Roles And Responsibilities

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is mandated by law to conserve Montana's scenic historic, archaeological, scientific and recreational resources for the use and enjoyment of the people. The Parks Division operation of state parks, recreational areas, monuments, fishing access sites, and recreational waterways, roads, and trails fulfills that responsibility. To a degree, management for conservation and use are contradictory goals neither of which may be allowed to predominate within the system. There is little point in conserving park resources if they cannot be used and enjoyed by people, but use cannot be allowed to destroy the very thing being conserved either. Management such as land acquisition, capital construction, law enforcement, interpretation, the provision of information, operations, general maintenance, and coordination with other agencies must be carefully balanced to produce the end product -- resources of value to present and future generations.



Nelson SRA is situated on the east shore of Nelson Reservoir, perhaps the best walleye fishing lake in Montana. Camping and picnic facilities, along with a boat ramp, are available. Popular activities include swimming and water-skiing.

Chapter 2

LOOKING BACK

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Regional Boundaries And Offices

STATE HEADQUARTERS

1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
444-3750

REGIONAL OFFICES

Region 1

P. O. Box 67
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
755-5505

Region 2

3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59801
721-5808

Region 3

8695 Huffine Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
586-5419

Region 4

Route 4041
Great Falls, MT 59405
454-3441

Region 5

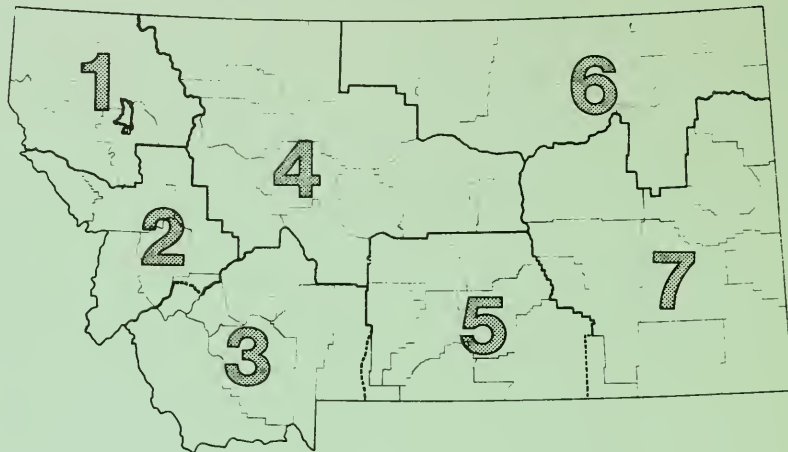
1125 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59101
252-4654

Region 6

Route 1, Box 210
Glasgow, MT 59230
228-9347

Region 7

Box 430
Miles City, MT 59301
232-4365



Montana State Park System Visitation

How many people visit the State Park System? The answer to this question is one of the most sought after pieces of information for a park manager. Not only are visitation figures used for the manager's park planning, but they are constantly being requested by other agencies, organizations, or individuals. Our state has over 300 State Park System sites dotting its average 550 mile length--collecting accurate visitor statistics is no easy task.

The Technique

The mainstay of the visitation calculation technique is the electric traffic counter. These instruments are quite expensive and manpower is not available to manage one counter at every site, so counters are on an annually rotating schedule. Each site in the state should be serviced by a traffic counter once every five to seven years. In the interim, visitation statistics from the previous year are revised according to traffic flow on each site's feeder route as determined by the Montana State Highway Department's extensive traffic counter system.

Traffic counts are converted to visits by using a person/vehicle factor determined by observation while collecting camping fees. Traffic counters tend to produce visitation figures at the high end of the scale because a visitor may leave and re-enter a site more than once during one outing. Park System wide, however, this overestimate is somewhat balanced by the fact that a number of sites have secondary entrances or are accessible by foot or boat only, thus avoiding all traffic counters.

Traffic counter readings are taken during a period of time beginning with the Memorial Day weekend (May 27, 1983) to September 30. Annual statewide visitation can be derived by expanding this value by 15%. This value was determined from observation by park officials.

The Results

The counter program tells us that the Montana State Park System hosted nearly 4.5 million people during the entire 1983 calendar year. This is an increase of 8% over 1982. A comparison of overnight camping permit sales, to total visitation revealed that 14% of the System's visitors stayed overnight.

STATEWIDE PARKS VISITATION

	Visits	%Change From Previous Year
Calendar Year 1981	3,544,000	+7
Calendar Year 1982	4,146,400	+17
Calendar Year 1983	4,469,700	+8

As the oldest, and one of the most attractive state parks in Montana, Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park services as a useful indicator site in regards to visitation. Tour ticket sales at the Caverns in 1983 experienced an 8 percent increase over the previous year. This coincides exactly with the calculated statewide increase above, offering strong confirmation for the accuracy of the overall visitation statistics.

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS Tour Ticket Sales

	May	June	July	August	Sept.	% Change From Total Previous Year
Calendar Year 1981	4,638	11,391	19,154	17,458	5,304	57,943 +10
Calendar Year 1982	3,642	10,018	18,565	16,004	4,673	52,902 -9
Calendar Year 1983	4,308	10,876	20,349	16,977	4,568	57,078 +8

The total visitation statistics presented in Tables 1 and 2 below were collected by use of the traffic counter technique. Overnight visits were determined by overnight camping permit sales plus 30% -- permit sales are considered to be only 70% efficient statewide. One permit corresponds to one vehicle. Therefore, the permit sales must also be multiplied by the number of persons observed per vehicle to convert to the number of visitors. Day use is merely the difference between total visits and overnight visits at fee sites. All statistics are given in terms of the number of visits during the period beginning with the Memorial Day weekend and ending September 30, except for the annual visitation given in the last line of Table 2.

<p><u>Table 1.</u> Fee Areas - 1983 (May 27 - September 30)</p>			
<u>Region</u>	<u>Overnight Visits / % Total</u>	<u>Day Use Visits / % Total</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
1	71,700 / 23	237,600 / 77	309,300
2	13,800 / 15	76,500 / 85	90,300
3	15,800 / 12	114,100 / 88	129,900
Canyon Ferry	40,400 / 8	445,300 / 92	485,700
4	15,400 / 25	45,300 / 75	60,700
5	20,300 / 7	262,900 / 93	283,200
6	no fee areas	no fee areas	no fee areas
7	7,500 / 5	145,800 / 95	153,300
Statewide	184,900 / 12	1,327,500 / 88	1,512,400

Table 2. All State Park System Sites - 1983
(May 27 - September 30)

<u>Region</u>	<u>Overnight Visits / % Total</u>	<u>Day Use Visits / % Total</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
1	140,700 / 23	470,900 / 77	611,600
2	79,200 / 15	449,100 / 85	528,300
3	68,200 / 12	500,300 / 88	568,500
Canyon Ferry	47,300 / 8	543,600 / 92	590,900
4	131,000 / 25	392,800 / 75	523,800
5	40,200 / 7	534,100 / 93	574,300
6	11,900 / 12*	86,900 / 88*	98,800
7	19,500 / 5	371,000 / 95	390,500
Seasonal Total	538,000 / 14	3,348,700 / 86	3,886,700
Annual Total (Seasonal Total + 15%)			
Overnight use will decrease by an unknown factor during winter months making it impossible to apply the 15% increase to overnight and day use to arrive at annual use.			
4,469,700			

*All regional percentages come from Table 1. Since Region 6 has no fee areas, the statewide average from Table 1 was used.



The spectacular and unusual beauty of towering cap rocks, clay buttes, and rolling pine-clad mesas led to the establishment of Makoshika State Park near Glendive in 1953. Over 4600 acres are now within the Park boundaries.

In 1983, the State Park System received visits from every county in the state, every state in the Union, and from nine foreign countries. Visitors came from such distant places as Japan, France, West Germany, Holland, Switzerland, and Israel.

Overnight ticket sales indicated that between May 27 and September 30, 1983, 51% of the visitors at fee collecting sites were residents of Montana. Although this figure was derived from permit sales at fee collection sites, we assume that a similar percentage applies to statewide visitation.

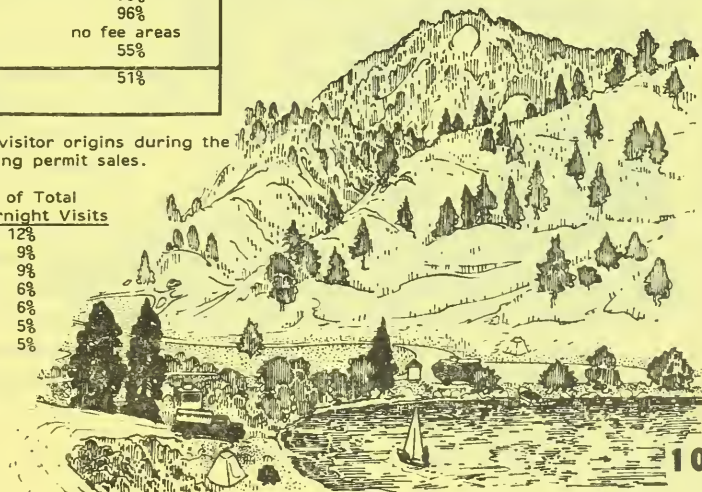
**Table 3. Resident and Nonresident Visitation
At Fee Collection Sites Only**

<u>Region</u>	<u>Nonresident Visitation</u>	<u>Resident Visitation</u>
1	68%	32%
2	44%	56%
3	85%	15%
Canyon Ferry	27%	73%
4	22%	78%
5	4%	96%
6	no fee areas	no fee areas
7	45%	55%
Statewide	49%	51%

Holter Lake is the major overnight recreation area on the Missouri River between Great Falls and Helena. The lake maintains a very stable water level which provides excellent fishing, boating, water-skiing and swimming. The scenic area of Holter Lake offers many a camper a weekend of restful, relaxing memories.

Where they came from -- the seven most common visitor origins during the summer season, as determined by overnight camping permit sales.

<u>Origin</u>	<u>% of Total Overnight Visits</u>
Canada	12%
Washington	9%
Yellowstone County, Montana	9%
California	6%
Missoula County, Montana	6%
Cascade County, Montana	5%
Lewis and Clark County, Montana	5%



Park System & Acquisition

During the period from July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983 four new fishing access sites and one new state recreation area were acquired. Several additions were made to state parks, state monuments, state recreation areas, and fishing access sites. A total of 420 acres of land was acquired during this period.

One fishing access site was donated to the state, two were acquired by recreational easements at no cost, and all other FAS acquisitions were made with revenues gained by the sale of fishing licenses.

Lake Elmo State Recreation Area was chosen by the 1983 legislature and was purchased with Coal Tax monies. This property lies on the northeastern boundary of the city of Billings. Eighty acres of land and water were purchased and a lease option covering a four year period was taken on an additional 42 acres of land. This property will provide a close-in recreation area to the people of Billings and southeastern Montana.

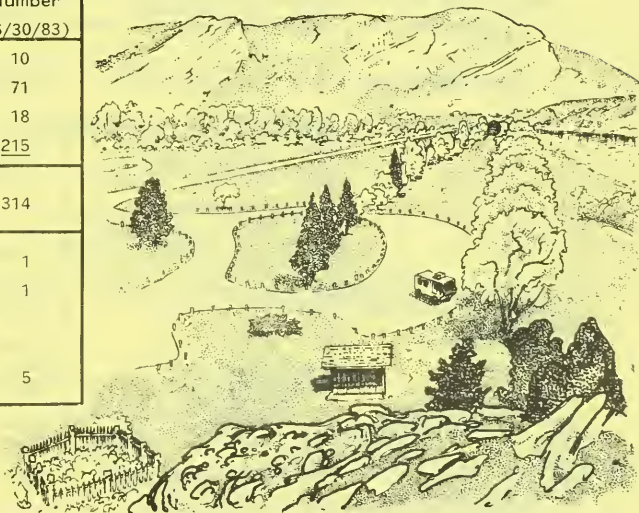
An addition to Wildhorse Island of 336 acres was donated by The Nature Conservancy and was made possible by the appreciated value of the previous six segments which were purchased from The Nature Conservancy. This donation represents the last large segment of Wildhorse Island to be acquired. Several lots remain in private ownership on the island.

The department acquired a road easement into Fort McGinnis State Monument and a small area which is to be developed into an interpretive area. The Fort McGinnis site is on State of Montana property controlled by the Department of State Lands. Currently the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is working with the Department of State Lands to acquire a recreational lease on the Fort site which consists of 220 acres. This agreement will be a cooperative agreement with the current grazing lessee who will continue to graze the area with public access allowed.

Several land exchanges occurred. Exchanges took place at Placid Lake SRA, Mount Hagen WMSRA and Poindexter Slough FAS. All of these exchanges enhanced the management of the properties as they consolidated the departments ownership.

Refer to the list of acquisitions for details of the above transactions.

TYPE OF AREA	Number (6/30/82)	Number (6/30/83)
State Park	10	10
State Recreation Area	70	71
State Monuments	18	18
Fishing Access Sites	<u>211</u>	<u>215</u>
Total	309	314
State Recreation Road	1	1
State Recreational Trails (in Sluice Boxes State Monument)	1	1
State Recreational Waterways	5	5



The Missouri Headwaters State Park is centered at the junction of three of Montana's major rivers which combine to form the mighty Missouri. Interpretive displays tell the story of Indians, explorers, trappers, and settlers who made this important geographic crossroads their destination.

ACQUISITIONS COMPLETED BETWEEN
JULY 1, 1982 AND JUNE 30, 1983

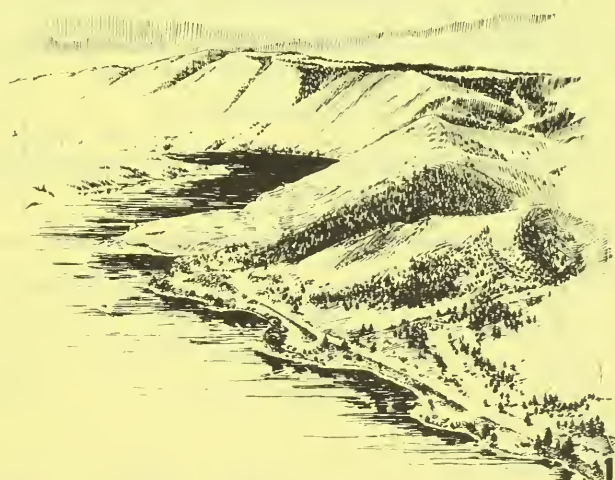
	DATE	NAME	COUNTY	ACREAGE	COST	PURPOSE
State Parks	10/14	Lone Pine Addition	Flathead	0.241	\$ 4,500	Hiking, nature study, sightseeing
	1/24	Lone Pine Addition	Flathead	13.65	N/C Lease	Hiking, nature study, sightseeing
State Monuments	4/25	Ft. Maginnis	Fergus	5.65	\$644	Historic preservation with interpretative trails, picnicking
	9/3	Sluice Boxes Addition	Cascade	8.17	\$ 18,500	Hiking, fishing
State Recreation Areas	3/30	Placid Lake Exchange	Missoula	+ 0.02 - 0.07	Exchange	Swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking
	7/31	Wild Horse Island Addition	Lake	336.05	Donation	Hiking, nature study, sightseeing
	5/4	Mt. Haggin Exchange	Deer Lodge	+ 3,879 - 3,998	Exchange	Hiking, nature study, sightseeing
	6/27	Lake Elmo	Yellowstone	80.67	\$1,000,000	Swimming, fishing, picnicking, ballfield, wind surfing
	6/27	Subtract Juniper Beach traded to Kimble for Lake Elmo	Lake	-3.4	-\$145,000	Disposed of
	6/27	Lake Elmo	Yellowstone	42.38	\$100,000 Lease	Swimming, fishing, picnicking, ballfield, wind surfing
	1/18	White Bear	Cascade	9.39	Donation	Picnicking, boat access
	7/30	Poindexter Slough	Beaverhead	+ 21.07 - 62.23	Exchange	Fishing
Fishing Access Sites	12/27	Wing Dam	Cascade	5 ±	Donation	Fishing
	6/20	Beaver Lodge	Carbon	0.34	\$1,800	Roadway Easement
	4/01	Intake Dam	Dawson	30	\$ 344 Lease	Camping, fishing
	9/22	Silver Star	Madison	25.93	\$39,200	Fishing, boating
	6/8	Marco Flats	Missoula	1.5	NC Easement	Boat take-out on the Blackfoot, picnicking, fishing
	3/11	Bynum Reservoir	Teton	30.	NC Easement	Boat ramp, fishing, picnicking

The Coal Tax . . . Helping Provide Parks For Montana

The 44th State Legislature in 1975, initiated a state coal severance revenue tax. Two-thirds of five percent, of fifty percent, (1.67%) of the total coal severance tax collections are allocated to an earmarked revenue trust fund for the purpose of acquisition, operation, and maintenance of park system sites.

The chart below briefly summarizes the acquisitions made between 1977, when the law became effective, and 1982. Acquisitions approved by the 1983 Legislature are discussed later.

Black Sandy Beach on Hauser Reservoir, near Helena has been an extremely popular recreation destination over the years. The donation of a lease to the State Park System by the Montana Power Company will result in design work to Black Sandy State Recreation Area to better accommodate intensive summer use.



Acquisitions Made With the Coal Tax			Acreage	Appraisal, Survey, and Title Cost	Purchased Cost
December, 1977	Roche Jaune SRA	Custer County	1.0	\$ 460.75	\$ 19,600
June, 1978	Bannack SP addition	Beaverhead County	1 lot	---	1,850
June, 1978	Powder River Depot SM*	Prairie County	easement	1,203.75	-0-
August, 1978	Council Grove SM	Missoula County	186.0	3,287.50	140,000
October, 1978	Rosebud Battlefield SM	Big Horn County	4883.0	4,070.76	881,160
January, 1979	Makoshika SP Addition	Dawson County	650.36	1,847.50	143,900
July, 1979	Giant Springs-Heritage SP Addition	Cascade County	28.6	1,800.00	97,500
August, 1979	Lake Josephine (leased to city)	Yellowstone County	---	4,106.16	125,000
August, 1981	Spring Meadow Lake SRA	Lewis & Clark County	55.8	714.55	293,000
April, 1982	Doeden's Island SRA	Custer County	269	3,074.04	110,000
	Total	6,074 acres		\$22,565.01	\$1,812,010
<p>Total Cost: \$1,834,575.01</p> <p>Other Matching Funds: 225,786.42</p> <p>Coal Tax Funds: 1,608,788.60</p>					

* Easement for historic monument, recreation and fishing access site from Burlington Northern.

Legislation Changed The Coal Tax Parks Law

Prior to 1979, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks had the responsibility of finding and choosing areas for acquisition made with the coal tax money. HB 550 passed by the 1979 Legislature, stated that any person, association, or representative of a governing unit may submit a proposal for the acquisition of a site or area that would meet State Park System qualifications. This proposal must be submitted to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks by December 1 of the year preceding the convening of a legislative session.

The Fish and Game Commission shall then present to the legislature by the 15th day of any legislative session a list of areas, sites, or objects that were proposed for purchase for use as state parks, state recreational areas, state monuments, or state historical sites with the money contained in the parks account.

The legislature must appropriate funds from this account before any park, area, monument or site may be purchased.

HB 871, passed by the 1981 Legislature, included a statement of intent that the department "adopt rules to equitably distribute funds for park acquisition." These rules may provide for adjustments of grants if less revenue is received than is appropriated under this act.

HB 871 also required that separate accounts be maintained for cultural and aesthetic grants and coal tax park acquisitions. Previously these funds were in one account. The interest earnings are split two-thirds for parks and one-third for cultural and aesthetic grants.

The 1981 Legislature's Long Range Building Committee passed a resolution instructing the department to submit proposals along with the citizens' list of proposals for areas to be purchased from the Coal Tax Trust Fund.

Informing The Public

To inform the public about proposing Coal Tax acquisitions for the State Park System, in the spring and summer of 1982, the Parks Division published an article entitled "Help Pick Montana's State Parks" in the Montana Outdoors weekly newspaper column. News releases explaining the program were made available to the press statewide. In addition, a brochure was distributed to the department's regional offices and to any individual upon request. It contained an application form for sponsors to submit their park proposals to the department.

The 1983 Citizen Proposals

The following Coal Tax Park Proposals were submitted to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks by December 1, 1982. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Site	County	Acres	Coal Tax Request
Blackfoot Easement	Missoula	-----	\$ 100,000
Clark's Lookout	Beaverhead	7.23	233,568
Fish Homestead	Dawson	2,374	356,173
(Makoshika Expansion)			
Glen Lake	Gallatin	100	450,000
Lake Elmo	Yellowstone	125	3,570,000
Les Mason Memorial	Flathead	7.50	800,000
Michael Ranch	Big Horn	511	250,000
(Rosebud Expansion)			
Moss Mansion	Yellowstone	1	77,000
Prickly Pear	Lewis and Clark	30	210,000
Vaughn Homestead	Cascade	200	600,000
White Sandy	Lewis and Clark	<u>88.80</u>	<u>420,000</u>
TOTALS		3,444.53	\$7,066,741

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Proposals

The 1981 Legislature's Long Range Building Committee passed a resolution instructing the department to submit proposals along with the citizens' list of proposals for areas to be purchased from the Coal Tax Trust Fund. The instructions from the resolution state in part...

As a "governing unit" the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks shall submit a proposal or proposals for the acquisition of a site or area described in 23-1-102 from the income of the trust fund created by 15-35-103 (2) (h) (ii). The proposal(s) shall be included in the list of areas that are proposed for purchase as additions to Montana State Parks system which the Fish and Game Commission presents to the legislature by the 15th day of the legislative session.

In keeping with the above resolution, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks submitted the proposals indicated below.

Coal Tax Request

Site	County	Acres	Acquisition	Development
Pageville School	Madison	-----	\$ 15,000	\$17,000
Park System Inholdings	Various	-----	175,000	-----
Parker Homestead	Jefferson	-----	2,500 lease *	10,000
Sub totals			\$192,500	\$27,000
Totals			\$219,500	

* \$100 per year for 25 years



One of Montana's newest park acquisitions, Lake Elmo, lies adjacent to the Billings urban area, and offers eastern Montanans a scarce resource: flat water for swimming, sailing, and sunning.

House Bill 833 appropriated over 2.3 million dollars for the following acquisitions:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Blackfoot River Easement	\$ 50,000
Clark's Lookout, Dillon	40,739
Glen Lake, Bozeman	420,000
Lake Elmo, Billings	1,000,000
Les Mason Memorial, Whitefish Lake	675,000
Pageville School, Twin Bridges	20,000
Parker Homestead, Three Forks	12,500
State Park System In-Holdings	<u>88,000</u>
Total	\$2,306,239

Negotiations for purchase and resulting development planning will take place during Fiscal Year 1983-1984 for these sites. A shortfall in the anticipated earning capacity of the Coal Tax Trust Fund may postpone some acquisitions and development.

The Land & Water Conservation Fund . . .

Providing State Wide Outdoor Recreation

The Land and Water Conservation Fund...Providing Statewide Outdoor Recreation.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal program that provides grants to the states and their political subdivisions to assist with acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Grants may be used to fund up to 50 percent of outdoor recreation project costs.

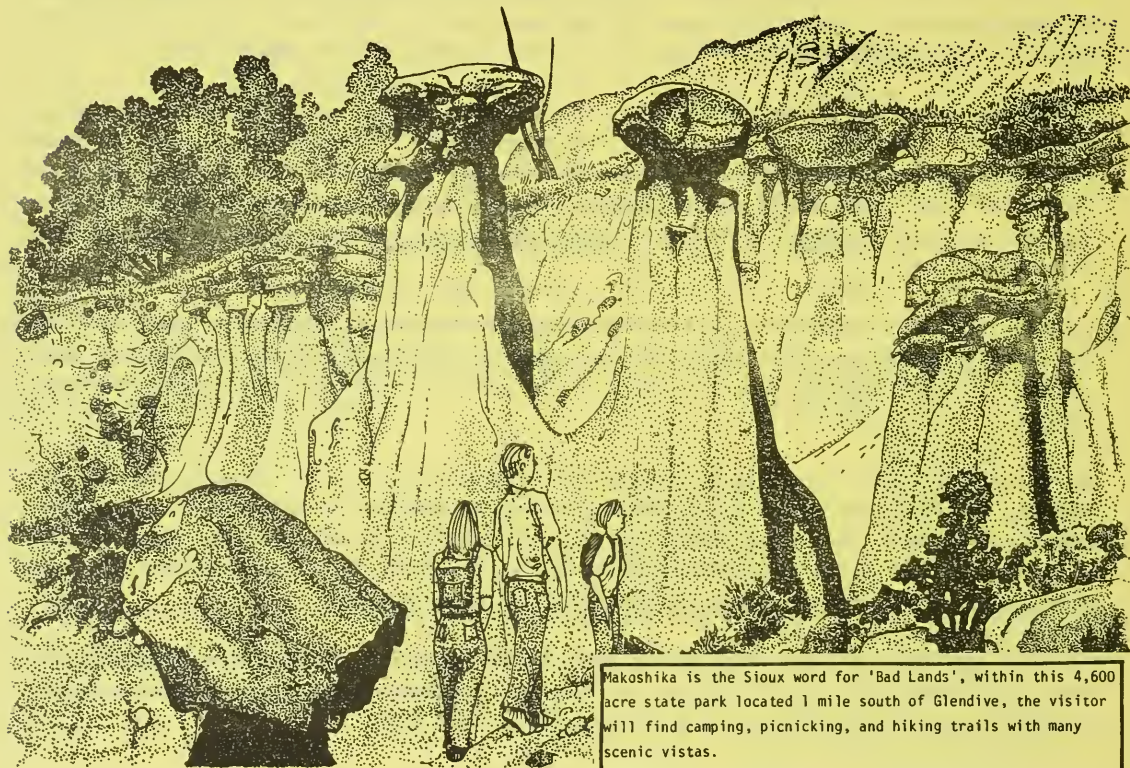
The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks was designated by law in 1965 as the state agency responsible for administration of the program. The Parks Division administers the program. In the 18 years since the program's inception, Montana has received \$26,830,691 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. With the 50 percent matching requirement, this has resulted in \$53,661,383 being expended on outdoor recreation areas and facilities in Montana as a direct result of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In Fiscal Year 1982-83, Montana's Land and Water Conservation Fund apportionment totaled \$653,808. Although this is far less than during the peak years of this funding source, the allocation gives evidence that the program is viewed positively by Congress, the administration and public sponsoring agencies.

Approximately 50 percent of all projects written during 1982-83 were for locally sponsored projects. The remaining 50 percent was utilized by the State of Montana to assist in the acquisition of the Les Mason property on Whitefish Lake. This property had been designated by the 48th Legislative session as a site to be acquired with the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the state's Coal Severance Tax. The historic 50/50 balance in funding state and local projects is being achieved.

As Fiscal 1983 came to a close some hesitant optimism was emerging as to the future of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. At the time of the fiscal year's closing it appears that a similar amount of funding will be available from the fund to Montana in Fiscal Year 1984.

Because of the enthusiasm demonstrated throughout the state by local governments of all sizes, it is hoped that this program will remain active in its cooperative effort to create and upgrade outdoor recreation facilities for the citizens and guests of Montana.

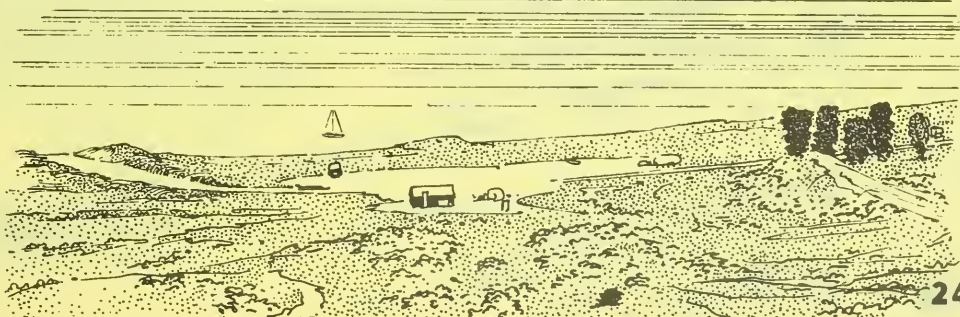
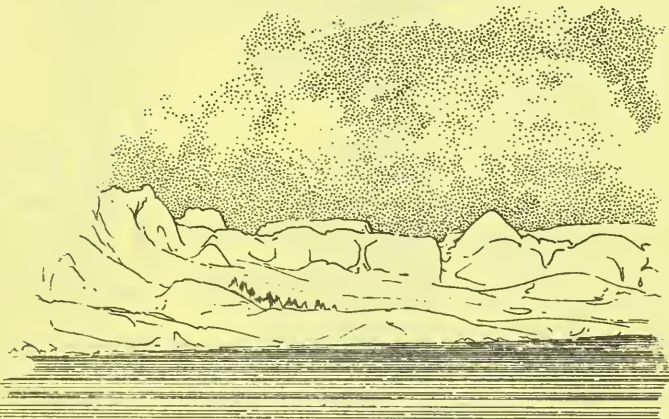


Makoshika is the Sioux word for 'Bad Lands', within this 4,600 acre state park located 1 mile south of Glendive, the visitor will find camping, picnicking, and hiking trails with many scenic vistas.

State Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects

Name	LWCF Dollars
Makoshika SP (D)	23,236
Bannack SP (D)	13,831
Lone Pine SP (D)	27,663
Les Mason SRA (A)	359,613
Total New State Projects	424,343
Amendments	
Wild Horse Island SP (A)	100,000
Total State Projects	\$524,343
D - Development	
A - Acquisition	

On the southern shore of Fort Peck Reservoir, 25 miles north of Jordan, lies Hell Creek State Recreation Area. Over 50,000 summer visitors enjoy swimming, boating, camping, and fishing here annually.



Local Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects

Sponsor	Project	LWCF Dollars
Flathead County	Hillcrest Park	\$ 8,517
Flathead County	Conrad Complex Improvements	\$11,950
Flathead County	Somers Park	\$ 9,260
Fairview	Tennis Court	\$11,150
Superior	Timberman's Memorial Park	\$ 3,500
Fromberg	Park Improvements	\$ 326
Whitefish	City Beach Multi-Park	\$12,400
Ekalaka	Pool Cover	\$ 738
Fallon County	Golf Court/Softball Complex	\$75,000
Bozeman School Dist. #7	Hawthorne School Playground	\$ 3,656
Dawson County	Fairground Renovation	\$49,000
Sunburst	Pool and Bath House Renovation	\$ 2,600
Anaconda/Deer Lodge	Washoe Park Pavilion	\$11,195
Red Lodge	Swimming Pool	\$75,000
Culbertson	Pool Renovation	\$11,700
Total New Local Projects		\$285,992
	Amendments	
None		-0-
Total Local Projects		\$285,992

D - Development

A - Acquisition

The Snowmobile Program . . .

A Dimension Of Winter Recreation

Montana's snowmobile program derives its revenue from two sources -- 1) \$2 registration fees, and 2) a share of Montana's gasoline tax (5/10 of 1% of the state's distributors gasoline tax is earmarked for snowmobiling). The Parks Division receives \$1 from every snowmobile registered plus 90 percent of the dollars generated through the gasoline tax. The remainder of the fuel tax allocation and the registration fee goes to the Enforcement Division for enforcement of snowmobile laws and for safety education.

In Fiscal 1983, approximately \$179,258 were expended on operation, maintenance, development, and the administration of Montana's snowmobile program. This included the purchase of one new Piston Bully 170 trail groomer for West Yellowstone and one used DMC 2100 groomer for the Seeley Lake area. Snowmobile trail grooming was the major effort undertaken during the snowmobile season. Plowing of snowmobile parking areas, and clearing and marking of snowmobile trails, also occurred.

Mount Haggin SRA offers 55,000 acres for dispersed recreational activities...



The following is a list of 1982-83 projects benefiting directly from the snowmobile fund.

SNOWMOBILE PROJECT SUMMARY 1982-83

TRAIL GROOMING

Location	Miles	Dollars
Anaconda	75	3,236
Beaverhead County	65	1,808
Bozeman	100	9,240
Cooke City	50	20,000
Flathead County	100	12,764
Fortune Trail	47	964
Helena	100	7,692
Kings Hill	75	13,862
Libby	186	2,379
Lincoln	110	10,267
Miles City		687
Makoshika	6	
Spotted Eagle	4	
Mineral County	60	1,460
Missoula	60	8,685
Ronan	30	983
Seeley Lake	150	8,982
Skyland Marias Pass	175	2,232
Sweetgrass County	15	636
West Yellowstone	150	44,862
Wise River	68	2,189
	<u>1,626</u>	<u>\$152,928</u>

PLOWING

Kings Hill	252
Miles City	300
Missoula	1,617
Waldron Creek (Teton Pass)	200
	<u>\$ 2,369</u>

...including fine snowmobile opportunities during the winter months.



ADMINISTRATION

Helena	\$ 14,823
Kalispell (Region 1)	1,837
Missoula (Region 2)	3,094
Bozeman (Region 3)	1,420
Great Falls (Region 4)	961
Billings (Region 5)	962
Miles City (Region 7)	864
	<u>\$ 23,961</u>

SUMMARY

Grooming	\$152,928
Plowing	2,369
Administration	23,961
	<u>\$179,258</u>

SNOWMOBILE COUNTS

ON

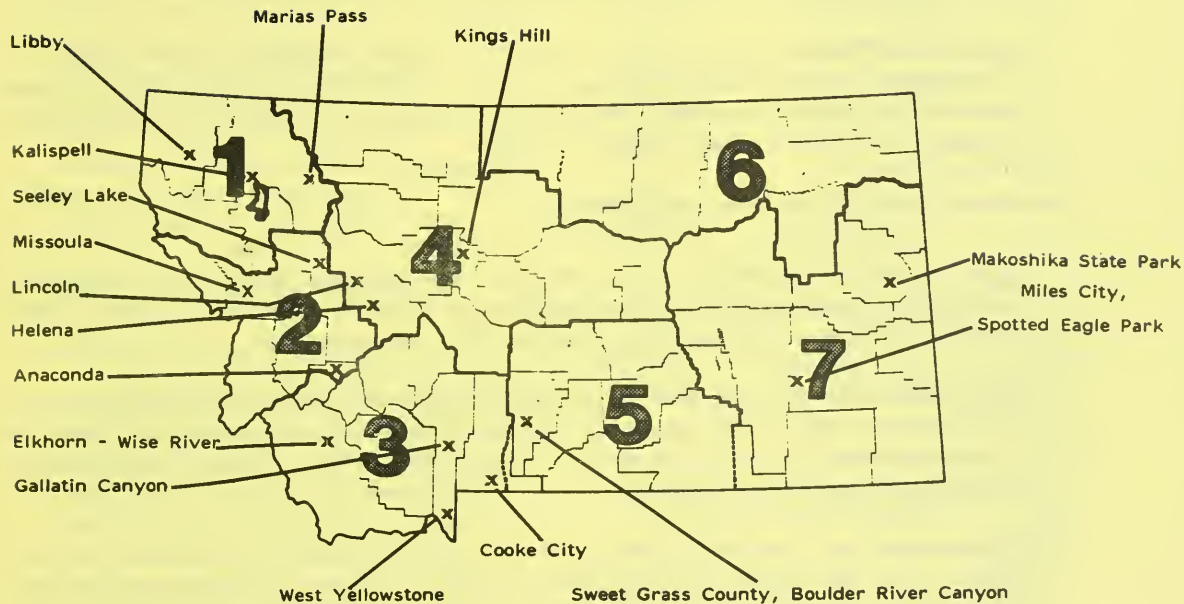
GROOMED TRAILS

	Trail	Snowmobiles in 1981-82	Snowmobiles in 1982-83	Percent Difference
Region 1	Canyon Creek, Flathead Co.	580	1030	+ 79%
	Crane Mountain, Flathead Co.	NC	NC	----
	Lost Johnny, Flathead Co.	5880	580	- 90%
	Diney, Flathead Co.	1170	1410	+ 21%
	Trumbull Creek, Flathead Co.	730	1180	+ 61%
	Baldy Mountain, Libby	NC	1590	----
	Skyland, Marlas Pass	NC	3050	----
	Fortline Trail ----	NC	1060	----
	Regional Total	4880	9890	
Region 2	Beaver Creek, Lincoln	NC	985	----
	Copper Creek, Lincoln	810	480	- 41%
	Martin Mountain Trail, Lincoln	NC	180	----
	McDonald Meadows, Lincoln	NC	163	----
	Seeley-Lincoln	NC	150	----
	Sucker Creek, Lincoln	NC	420	----
	Blue Mountain, Missoula	560	200	- 64%
	East Fork, Lolo Creek, Missoula	NC	540	----
	Elk Meadows, Missoula	480	1170	+144%
	Garnet Road, Missoula	650	630	- 4%
	Granite Creek Road, Missoula	NC	510	----
	Gold Creek, Missoula	300	390	+ 30%
	Lolo Pass, Missoula	590	1070	+ 83%
	Miller Creek, Missoula	260	130	- 52%
	Double Arrow, Seeley	NC	160	----
	Fawn Creek, Seeley	540	650	+ 21%
	Marshall-Mt. Henry, Seeley	NC	550	----
	Rice Ridge-West Morral, Seeley	NC	680	----
	Woodworth-Cottonwood Road, Seeley	NC	140	----
	Regional Total	4180	9170	

	Trail	Snowmobiles in 1981-82	Snowmobiles in 1982-83	Percent Difference
Region 3	Bracket, Bozeman	1170	1530	+ 32%
	Buck Creek, Bozeman	717	NC	----
	Carrot Basin, Bozeman	570	1060	+ 88%
	Fairy Road, Bozeman	330	300	- 8%
	Olson, Bozeman	600	730	+ 21%
	Cooke City ----	12640	19200	+ 52%
	Wise River ----	NC	1352	----
	West Yellowstone	43000	42230	- 2%
	Regional Total	59030	66402	
Region 4	Austin, Helena	1680	1210	- 28%
	Maggie, Helena	NC	130	----
	Marysville, Helena	NC	850	----
	Minnehaha, Helena	760	750	- 1%
	Divide Road, Kings Hill	NC	1430	----
	Jefferson Trail, Kings Hill	NC	1190	----
	Parking Lot, Kings Hill	NC	4760	----
	Powerline, Kings Hill	NC	870	----
	Teton Pass, Waldron Creek	400	1230	+205%
	Regional Total	2840	12420	
Region 5	No Counted Trails			
Region 6	No Groomed Trails			
Region 7	No Counted Trails			
State Total		70930	97902	

NC= No Count

The Snowmobile Program Provides Groomed Trails



New Legislation in 1983

The 1983 Legislature passed one senate bill which affects the Parks Division as follows:

SB 246 amends Sections 22-3-423 and 22-3-424, MCA, to require state agencies to either adopt rules in consultation with the Historical Society, or, in the absence of any rules, to abide by rules adopted by the Historic Preservation Office to avoid the alteration or damage of heritage properties or paleontological remains on lands owned by the state.

The following House bills affect the Parks operation:

HB 447 appropriates \$3,709,450 for the 1984 fiscal year for parks operations; it appropriates \$3,734,310 for fiscal year 1985. These totals include \$1,030,350 authority for grants to local communities which previously was not accounted for in the operations budget.

HB 672 amends Sec. 23-1-105, MCA. It waives the camping fees for totally disabled persons and defines "totally disabled". "Totally disabled" means a physical or mental condition which results in an individual having no reasonable prospect of regular employment of any kind, which condition is expected to last for the rest of his life.

HB 730 amends Sec. 15-35-108 (2), MCA, to set up a ten year highway reconstruction trust fund account. From July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987, 6% of the coal severance tax collections are allocated to this account, reducing the state park share from 1.67% of the total collections to 1.47%. From July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1993, 12% of the total coal severance tax collections are to be allocated to the highway reconstruction account, further reducing the park system share to 1.27%. After June 30, 1993, no further allocations are made to this account and the state park share should return to 1.67% of the total coal severance tax collection.

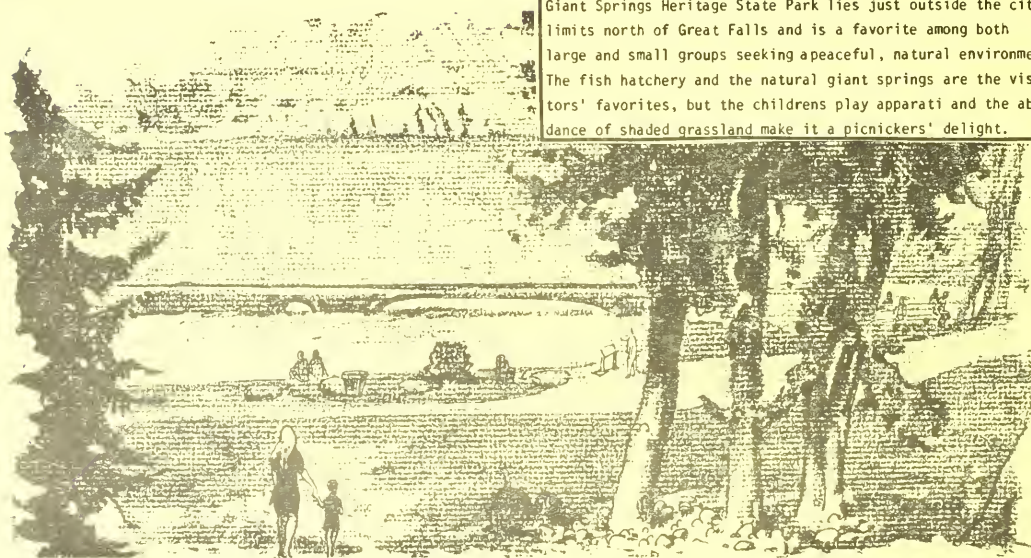
HB 833 appropriates money for the following capital projects:

	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Source</u>
Fishing Access Site Development	250,000	License Money
Helena Headquarters Renovation and Repair	25,000	License Money
Headquarters Storage Building, R.1	30,000	License Money
Wildlife Management Area Maintenance	50,000	License Money
Lake and Stream Improvements	50,000	License Money
Elkhorn State Monument Improvements	20,000	Coal Tax
Giant Springs Heritage State Park Improvements	75,000	Long Range Building Fund
Makoshika State Park Development	78,000	Coal Tax
Spring Meadow Lake Improvements	90,000	Coal Tax
	30,000	Contributions
Madison Buffalo Jump State Monument Improvements	5,000	LWCF Jobs Bill
Bannack State Park Improvements	210,000	LWCF
	158,000	Long Range Building Fund
Logan State Recreation Area Improvements	80,000	LWCF Jobs Bill
Yellow Bay State Recreation Area Improvements	8,000	LWCF Jobs Bill
Pictograph Cave State Monument Improvements	40,000	LWCF Jobs Bill
Plenty Coups State Monument Improvements	38,000	LWCF Jobs Bill
Canyon Ferry State Recreation Area Road Improvements	50,000	Long Range Building Fund

Land Acquisition Appropriation

Lake Elmo, Billings	1,000,000	Coal Tax
Glen Lake, Bozeman	420,000	Coal Tax
Les Mason Memorial, Whitefish Lake	675,000	Coal Tax
Parker Homestead, Three Forks	12,500	Coal Tax
State Park System In-holdings	88,000	Coal Tax
Blackfoot River Easement	50,000	Coal Tax
Pageville School, Twin Bridges	20,000	Coal Tax
Clark Rock, Dillon	40,739	Coal Tax
Fishing Access Site Acquisition	745,000	License Money
Game Range Acquisition	300,000	License Money
Fort Owens Renovation	20,000	Long Range Building Fund

Giant Springs Heritage State Park lies just outside the city limits north of Great Falls and is a favorite among both large and small groups seeking a peaceful, natural environment. The fish hatchery and the natural giant springs are the visitors' favorites, but the childrens play apparati and the abundance of shaded grassland make it a picnickers' delight.



Legislative Audit

During the year, a performance audit of the Parks Division was performed at the request of the Legislative Auditor. The objectives of the audit were to determine if the division is managing and using its resources efficiently and effectively in achieving desired results, and to identify the causes of any inefficiencies or ineffective practices. The audit will not include a review of the financial status of the division. Other exclusions are:

Land and Water Conservation Funds, because this activity was reviewed as part of a previous financial/compliance audit done by the Legislative Auditors Office.

Cabin site leasing procedures, because this area was included in a performance audit done by the Legislative Auditors Office on state lands.

Capitol Grounds Maintenance, which was transferred to the division during the 1983 Legislative Session, because it is still in the implementation stage.

The audit was still in progress at the close of the fiscal year.

The Planning Bureau

The 1983 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was completed and submitted to the administrating federal agency, the National Park Service (NPS). The 1983 SCORP is entitled "Outdoors in Montana". The document was received well by NPS and the State of Montana has continued its eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act.

During the five year 1983 SCORP planning cycle, Planning Bureau activities were predominated by SCORP requirements. During the coming 1988 SCORP planning cycle, the intention is to shift the emphasis from SCORP administrative requirements to the recreational needs of the state and local communities and greater support for the Parks Division's field operations. These recreational needs then, will determine the content of the 1988 SCORP, which will be an accumulation of project reports rather than taking the form of one manicured and bound publication.

Since future SCORP planning will be funded by state funds, rather than a planning grant, projects will now be possible that would not have met federal funding requirements. Some of these projects were commenced even before the publication of the 1983 SCORP. For example, management plans for each of the state recreation facilities are badly needed. To explore the possibility of the Planning Bureau filling that need, two management plans were assigned, the Smith River Corridor and Doeden's Island. These should be completed during Fiscal Year 1984.

Other Planning Bureau projects completed in Fiscal Year 1983 include:

Applications for eleven Coal Tax acquisition proposals were received by the Planning Bureau and referred to the 1983 legislature, with discriptive material.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) applications for small-hydro projects were reviewed and evaluated by the Planning Bureau throughout the year.

Management of Spring Meadow Lake State Recreation Area was provided by about one-third of planner Terry Knupp's time and management of the Smith River corridor began in April of 1983 by planner Paul Pacini. This latter assignment was designed to use 25 percent of Paul's time, but only about half of this time was spent in Fiscal Year 1983 because the float season extended into August of 1983.

The Planning Bureau participated in joint snowmobile enforcement patrols with the Enforcement Division in the Helena area. These patrols were arranged to simultaneously service the three snowmobile counters in the Helena area.

Summer visitation statistics were again derived on a statewide basis from traffic counter data and a report issued.

The Bureau, through Terry Knupp, worked very closely with the Governor's Wilderness Advisory Committee.

An inter-agency effort to provide a "Montana Recreation Map" was completed with a very useful product depicting all state and federal recreation facilities in the state. The Planning Bureau and the Montana Promotion Unit of the Department of Commerce took the lead roles in this project.

A visit to Placid Lake State Recreation Area should include the interpretive panels at the entrance, depicting early day logging activities of the area. The area also offers opportunities to swim, fish, boat, camp, picnic, or just plain relax.



The Design & Construction Bureau . . .

Providing Park Facilities

Site Plans and Comprehensive Plans

A "Site Plan" deals with specific detail such as road, latrine, and picnic area placement. A "Comprehensive Plan" is on a much smaller map scale, covering much more area, and addresses items such as land use, history, archeology and facilities in a schematic form. It presents more general concepts and is one of the first phases of site development. Both of these types of plans are prepared prior to any project improvements.

During the Fiscal Year 1982 no Comprehensive Plans were completed, but the following Site Plans were prepared:

Master Site Plans Prepared

Bynum Reservoir FAS
Cave Bay SRA concession area
Captain Clark FAS
Manual Lisa FAS
Helena Warehouse Property
Big Timber Bridge (not yet acquired)
Tucker Crossing FAS
Two Leggins FAS
Grey Owl FAS
Silver Star FAS
Animal Shelter at warehouse property

Camp Baker FAS
Jo Bonner SRA, Canyon Ferry
Ft. Maginnis SM
Judith Landing SRA
White Sandy SRA

Signing Plans

A "Signing Plan" describes the necessary signing and its placement relating to a site. The signing may range from directional and informational signs to special notices and interpretations. All sites shown on the Recreation Map distributed to the public must have directional signing.

Sign plans were prepared for:

Silos SRA

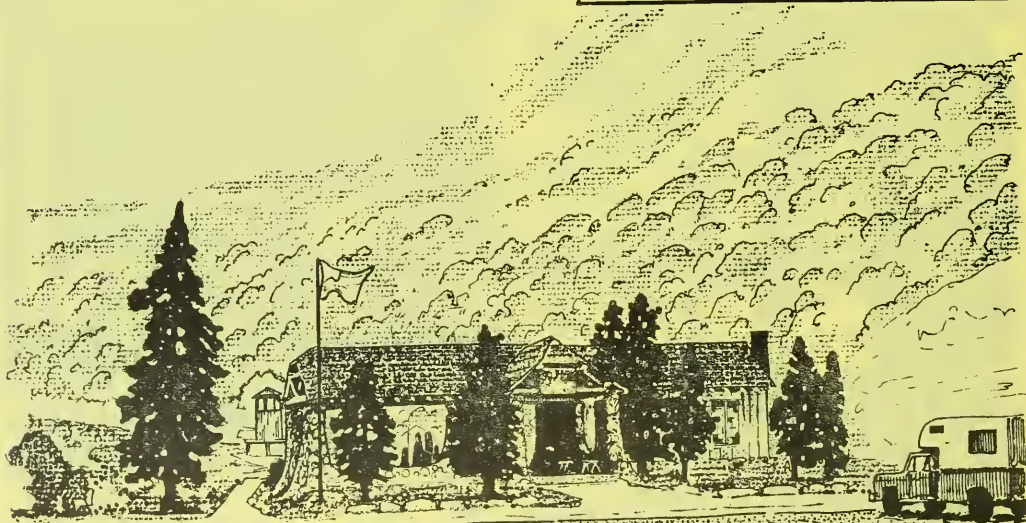
Pine Creek FAS

Old Steel Bridge FAS

Tongue Reservoir SRA

Tongue River Canyon FAS

Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park offers an outstanding tour of one of the most colorful caves in the west. The tour is complimented by an interpretive center, picnic and camping areas, scenic roads and trails, and a concession offering food and sovenirs.



Development Projects

The following is a list of Parks Division construction and development projects.

Fiscal Year 1983 Construction and Development Projects

<u>Site</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Black Sandy SRA	Roads, Facilities	11-10-82	\$226,000
Giant Springs SP	Landscape Facilities	8-5-82	262,000
Bell Crossing FAS	Roadwork	8-13-82	19,000
Council Grove SM	Roadwork	4-20-83	106,000
Kila FAS	Roadwork	4-8-82	16,000
Natural Bridge SM	Signs and Foot Trail	8-23-82	9,000
Old Steel Bridge FAS	Roadwork	8-25-82	18,000
Big Horn FAS	Roadwork	7-9-82	25,000
Lost Creek SP	Roadwork	3-30-83	140,000
Ackley Lake FAS	Facilities	11-22-82	99,000
Pine Creek FAS	Roadwork	5-12-83	13,000
Bannack SM	Bridges	Under Construction	22,000
Big Horn River FAS	2 Boat Ramps	6-30-83	8,000
Giant Springs SP	Drainfield	6-28-83	125,000
Silo's SRA	Roadwork	Under Construction	104,000
Caverns SP	Electrical	7-19-83	49,000
Lone Pine SP	Roads - Visitor Center	Under Construction	300,000
Black Sandy SRA	Seeding	Under Construction	15,000
Fort Owen SM	Interpretation	5-83	10,000
Tongue Reservoir SRA	Facilities	Under Construction	100,000
Grey Bear FAS	Rip Rap	5-83	5,000

Future construction and development projects were approved by the 1983 Legislature as follows:

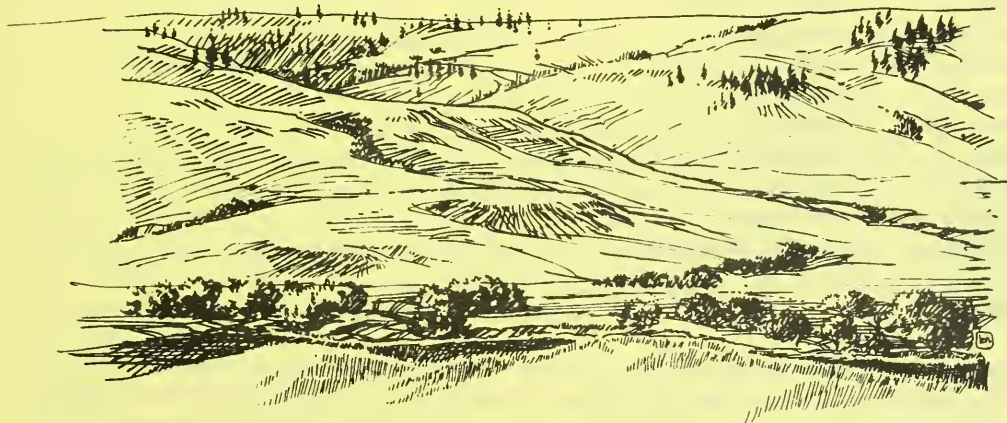
Construction Projects Approved by the 1983 Legislature

<u>Site</u>	<u>Project</u>
Whitetail Reservoir FAS	Dam Repair
Intake FAS	Latrine
Carters Bridge FAS	Road Ramp
Pipe Organ FAS	Bridge and Road
Johnsrud FAS	Road
County Line FAS	Road
Bean Lake FAS	Road
Captain Clark FAS	Road
Camp Baker FAS	Road
Kokanee FAS	Road
Grey Owl FAS	Road and Ramp
Shady Lane FAS	Parking Area
Gartside Reservoir FAS	Dam Engineering
South Sandstone SRA	Dam Repairs
Parker Homestead	Acquisition and Roadwork
Pageville School	Acquisition and Roadwork
Elkhorn SM	Building Stabilization
Makoshika SP	Paving
Spring Meadow SRA	Facilities and Roadwork
Fort Owen SM	Compound Area
Bannack SP	Fire Protection System, etc.
Canyon Ferry SRA	Roadwork
Madison Buffalo Jump SM	Interpretation
Logan SRA	Sewer System
Yellow Bay SRA	Latrine
Pictograph Cave SRA	Trail and Roads
Plenty Coups SM	Sidewalk and Latrine

Litigation

Contractual disputes occurred during the construction phase at Far West and Cameron Bridge fishing access sites. A court decision in the Far West case came down in the department's favor. The Cameron Bridge case was settled out of court at an agreeable figure.

A new suit has been filed against the Department by homeowners in Missoula. They claim their home is being flooded because the Department didn't maintain a dike on the Clark Fork River. Hydrometrics, Inc. has been hired to prepare a report to provide expert testimony.



At the site of the present Rosebud Battlefield State Monument, General George Crook, in 1867, was repelled by over 1000 Indians, and prevented from assisting Lt. Col. George Custer in his ill-fated mission.

Special Projects

The Design and Construction Bureau was involved in various other projects during Fiscal Year 1983.

Fiscal Year 1983 Construction Planning

<u>Site</u>	<u>Project</u>
Helena Animal Shelter	Facilities Improvements
Giant Springs SP	Paving
Poindexter Slough FAS	Bridge, Wildlife Habitat Development
Fort Owen SM	Water System
Makoshika SP	Paving
Whitetail FAS	Spillway Protection
Lost Creek SP	Interpretation
Tucker Crossing FAS	Roadwork
Camp Baker FAS	Roadwork
Captain Clark FAS	Roadwork
Gartside FAS	Dam Study
Two Leggins FAS	Roadwork
South Sandstone SRA	Dam Repairs
Giant Springs SP	Overlook Development

Other Projects

The Design and Construction Bureau also was involved in developing preliminary planning for the Jo Bonner SRA caretaker's Site, the West Shore Road at Canyon Ferry, the Helena Warehouse property study, ordering the USGS maps for the department, developing an overall direction for interpretation in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Helena office lobby, developing traveling displays for use at the various regional offices, various archaeological studies on specific sites, the Rosebud Battlefield historical study, Spring Meadow Lake SRA operations and maintenance, and maintenance of Capitol Complex grounds.

The Regions

REGION 1

The visitation in Region 1 last year increased resulting in a concentrated effort to keep pace by intensifying maintenance programs. The weed control program involved testing with mechanical, biological, and chemical controls. Floating boat dock systems were constructed and installed at Finley Point State Recreation Area. The camping facility was also redesigned. A six foot security fence was constructed along the park boundary of Yellow Bay State Recreation Area .

The color scheme in Region 1 was completed last year with all sites dawning the new woodland green and coffee brown coats.

Site protection projects were completed to improve parking, access, sanitary facilities and traffic flow at Kila and Old Steel Bridge Fishing Access Sites.

Wild Horse Island again was patrolled by a summer ranger whose duties included park law enforcement, public relations, and observation of island wildlife. The horse population of the island increased to four, with the addition of three horses through the BLM "adoption" program.

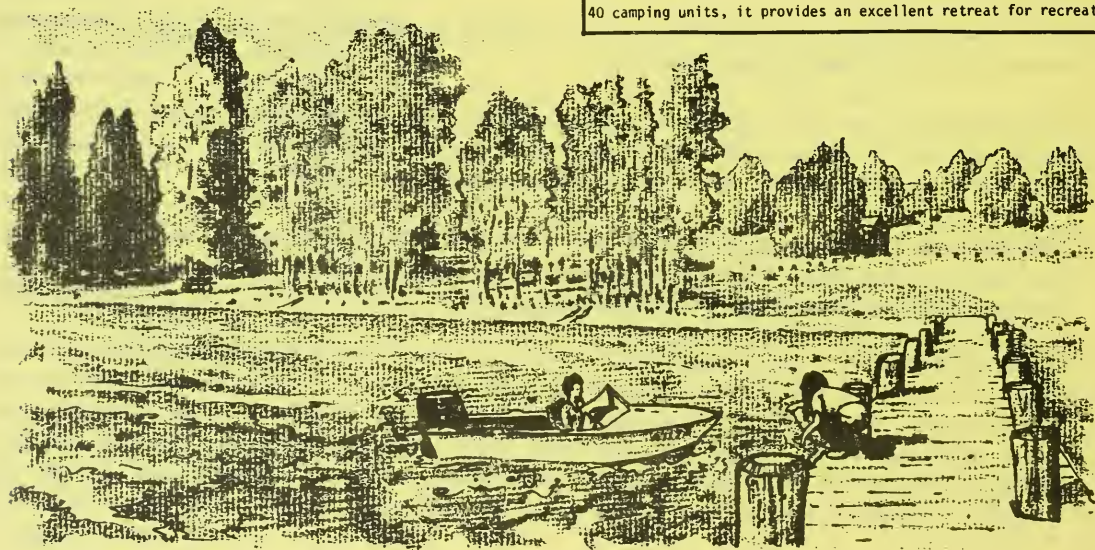
Lone Pine State Park project commenced with the construction of the visitors center, caretakers site, and improvements to the road. Completion is expected in the spring of 1984 with additional improvements to the interpretive trail, foot bridge and Foy Lake access.

The snowmobile program recorded an impressive 2,000 mile total of groomed snowmobile trails this past winter.

A number of potential acquisitions were investigated with mixed results. The Les Mason property on Whitefish Lake will be acquired through a Legislative appropriation from the coal tax fund. The property on Foy Lake was also acquired with development scheduled for spring 1984.

Support was also provided to the other divisions in the region in the form of maintenance work, welding, fabrication, ex-officio work and technical assistance.

Big Arm SRA on the south end of Flathead Lake is one of the most popular campgrounds on the lake. With $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of lake shore and 40 camping units, it provides an excellent retreat for recreationists.



REGION 2

A two-year agreement with the Anaconda Minerals Company for management and maintenance of the Georgetown Lake area was authorized by the legislature and began this year. New fee, regulation, and day-use signs were put up in five campgrounds and two day-use areas. New garbage cans and posts replaced many of the old barrels, and a number of the toilets were painted.

A recreation use study of the Blackfoot River Corridor was completed. A Recreation Intern from the University of Montana visited the corridor on a regular basis, taking inventory on the public recreational use. This data is being compared to the original use data completed in 1976 to determine any changes in the recreation trend. The final comparisons will help determine the management and justification for keeping the Blackfoot Corridor Project alive.

The Corridor experienced increased use, particularly by overnight campers and floaters. Champion International donated manpower and equipment to cut and grade new roads at River Bend campground and Belmont day-use area, in addition to placing large rock barriers in other areas to control off-road vehicle travel.

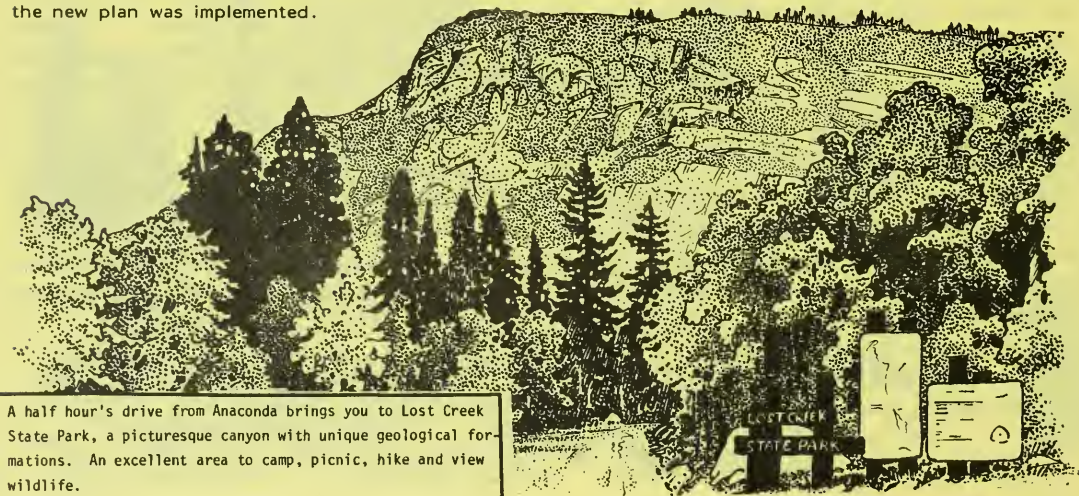
Snow grooming of trails was expanded to Jocko Pass by the Seeley Lake Club making it possible to snowmobile from St. Ignatius to Helena. A 2100 Pack Master snow groomer was acquired by the Seeley Lake club but it was plagued by mechanical problems most of the season. The open winter in the area, freed funds to build a snow compactor for the groomer. All major snowmobiling trails were marked or remarked in the Lolo area and a handout map showing trails and groomed trails was developed and will be improved in the future.

Roads were graveled in many of the fishing access sites with particular attention given to graveling the road and camping area at Brown's lake.

Permanent signs were made and posted in the Blackfoot-Clearwater and Morrison Peak Special Management areas after meetings with cooperating landowners deemed these walk-in areas should continue indefinitely.

In addition to our routine maintenance at all sites, special projects included: installation of a boat ramp and graveling of the parking lot at Brown's Lake, asphaltting and traffic barrier installation at the Frenchtown Pond Fishing Access Site entrance, development of Marco Flats (on the Blackfoot River above Bonner) as a raft take out area and new floating orientation signs at strategic boat put-in areas along the Blackfoot River.

Forest Grove Fishing Access Site has been getting so popular with floaters that the existing facilities were not capable of handling the large groups of 75 to 100 per day on some weekends. A new master site plan was drawn up this summer, and with the assistance of 24 high school seniors from Missoula, the new plan was implemented.



A half hour's drive from Anaconda brings you to Lost Creek State Park, a picturesque canyon with unique geological formations. An excellent area to camp, picnic, hike and view wildlife.

REGION 3

During fiscal year 1983, region staff spent a considerable amount of time as land managers involved with such tasks as spraying of noxious weeds, maintaining roads and grounds, monitoring visitor use, grooming of snowmobile trails, site mowing, fencing, painting, and collecting use fees.

Administration of the Region's four State Parks, three State Monuments and over 55 Fishing Access Sites involved many diverse challenges. These challenges were met with activities which involved presentations to service clubs, ex-officio law enforcement training and patrol, developing and updating park program interpretive brochures, administering land use contracts such as the Madison Buffalo Jump Grazing lease, developing regional guidelines of fish derbies, monitoring budgets and personnel allocations and development of a draft Cultural Resources Policy. Real estate matters continue to play an important role in the duties performed. This year a new fishing access was acquired at Silver Star and another property on the Yellowstone River was negotiated.

Region three staff played an important role in the 1983 legislative session providing testimony for acquisitions of new Parks Systems sites.

Contracts were negotiated with private consulting firms for a historic structures report on the Bannack Mill site, for a cultural resources inventory at Mt. Haggin and for historic research on Lewis and Clark Caverns.

CANYON FERRY

A YACC crew was not available this year due to lack of federal funding. This reduced the maintenance effectiveness at the Canyon Ferry facilities. Black Sandy SRA and Ponderosa SRA were converted to residential caretaker facilities. This greatly reduced incident rates at those sites affected as well as increased the percentage of fees collected. Enforcement efforts at both Canyon Ferry and Hauser Lakes resulted in low incident rates. The visibility certainly paid dividends and made life easier for caretakers as well as for many campers and residents. Ex officio personnel contributed over 200 hours to assist the area game wardens.

Soil and moisture conservation funds in the amount of \$43,000 were anticipated to be received from the Bureau of Reclamation for soil and moisture projects.

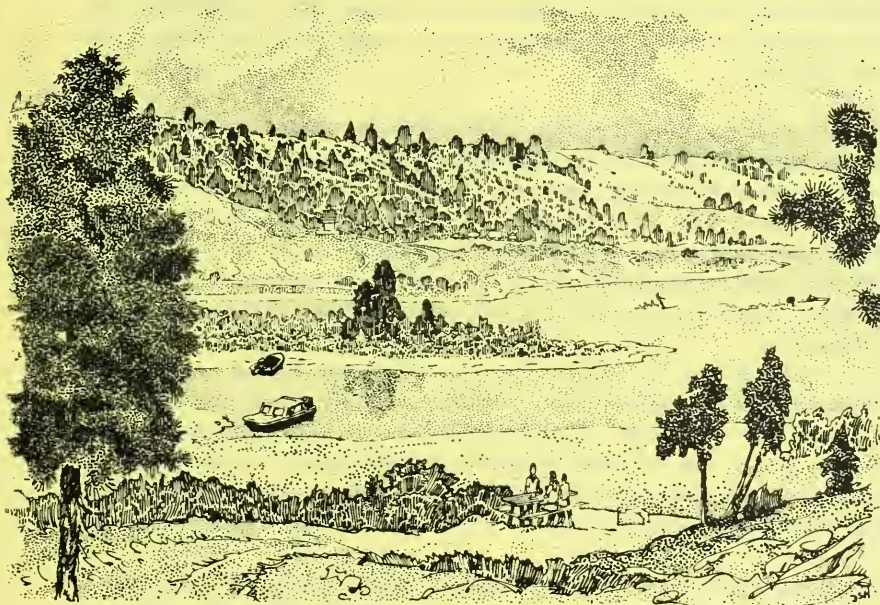
The meadow road at Hellgate SRA was rebuilt to all-weather standards to allow more convenient over flow camping.

The cabin site lease program involved the following inspections during 1982: 17 renewals, 16 transfers, 30 construction permits, and an unspecified number of complaints involving violations of lease agreements were investigated.

Past problems in concession administration are being resolved. Substandard marina conditions at Yacht Basin have been greatly improved. A clear title to Cave Bay Lodge adjacent to Kim's Marina has been secured which will allow its sale and eliminate the trespass situation. Kim's Marina has taken over the operations of Cave Bay SRA from the state and many maintenance improvements have already been accomplished.

The long range development program for the Silos SRA was completed in June providing a new boat ramp, latrine, three large picnic shelters and two miles of improved road.

The services of a graduate student intern were utilized successfully in traffic count duties, fee collection, and in preparing a report on future operation improvements at the Canyon Ferry facility.



Twenty-three miles long and just twenty miles east of Helena, Canyon Ferry Reservoir is the site of twenty-four State Recreation Areas. These areas provide the setting and facilities for such recreational activities as boating, waterskiing, fishing, camping, and picnicking.

REGION 4

A complete new sewer system, pumping station, and drain field is now in place at Giant Springs and paving is underway in the entire Heritage Park area. Plans to completely rebuild the Giant Springs State Fish Hatchery are being developed at a projected cost of 1.9 million. The Hatchery will close on May 15, 1984, and remain closed until the rebuilding is completed in the Fall of 1985. In addition to the new raceways and a hatchery building, if funds are available, a visitor center with a fish aquarium will be developed with interpretive facilities.

The Heritage Park Commission, Missouri River Overlook Development Committee, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks have been working very closely together to solicit easements and money to develop vista areas and overlooks at Black Eagle, Rainbow, and Crooked Falls on the Missouri River near Giant Springs. The Montana Power Company has donated \$75,000 plus two overlook sites and we are presently seeking more funds from the Great Falls area. Malstrom Air Force Base and the Society of Architects have been helping with manpower. This project will be an exciting expansion to the Giant Springs area and will enable more people to enjoy the beauty of the "great falls" of the Missouri.

In March of 1983, the Bureau of Land Management transferred its entire Smith River frontage holding including 11 sites totaling more than 800 acres to the Montana Department of State Lands. The Department of State Lands will in turn transfer these parcels to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. In addition to these, the Department holds deed to two parcels of land on the Smith River totaling over 3,200 acres and containing over 3.25 river miles.

In early April the region four maintenance crew installed a small log cabin at the Camp Baker Fishing Access Site where the Smith River Ranger will be headquartered during the float season. Our traffic counter reports indicate that visitation on the Smith is up 70 percent over last year, 2,400 visitors in 1982 and 4,071 visitors in 1983.

A joint venture between the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Teton County Sportsmen Club, and the Teton County Road Department has led to major improvements that are now in process at Bynum Reservoir. The improvements include a new boat ramp, two single latrines, fencing, a new cattle guard, and graveling the roads.

Over a hundred people gathered at Ackley Lake on June 19 for the official dedication of the new facilities. Debbie Cheek was the keynote speaker for the potluck picnic which had many dignitaries on hand who had worked with her on the project.

The 48th Legislature approved \$90,000 of state money for improvements at Spring Meadow Lake along with authority to spend up to \$30,000 of private donation for improvements at Spring Meadow Lake State Recreation Area. Plans to implement the department's master site plan are now being put into gear.

Region four had a vital role in obtaining right-of-way and purchase of one parcel of state land and two private parcels for a road currently being built by the Bureau of Reclamation at Pishkun Reservoir. The road leads to and around the area.

Bob Durocher donated a small tract of land near Cascade on the Missouri River which has been heavily used by fishermen in the past. The maintenance crew has fenced and signed the area we now call Wing Dam Fishing Access Site.

A major program for control of noxious weeds has been incorporated into the Region four annual maintenance program through the fine efforts of maintenance foreman, Ed Nevala.

A new double latrine was built by the shop class of Great Falls High School and installed by our maintenance crew at Holter Lakes' Log Gulch.

Region 5

This year the Region was involved in a wide variety of activities. The major activity to the Region was new ownership and operations of Lake Elmo State Recreation Area. Many hours of planning were spent on the project prior to July 15, 1983, when the area became officially the property of the State. A new Park Manager was appointed to the area for its operation and management. The Region will be involved with the public in the next few years to plan its facility development so that we best serve the needs of the people. Public hearings and mail surveys are planned for the fall of 1983 and in 1984.

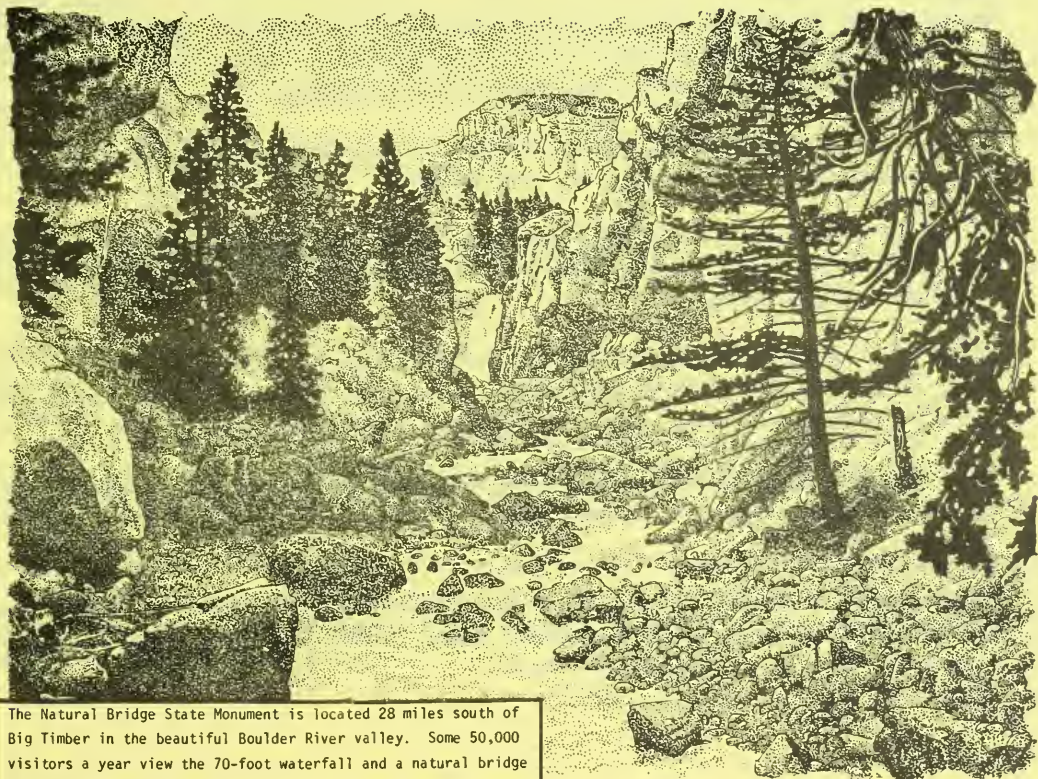
The Region also received an additional Parks Manager to assist with regional needs such as the weed program, identifying potential land acquisition and land trades for recreational access, better field supervision of personnel, and to learn more about public use patterns and needs.

Two construction projects were completed in the region this year with both of them on the Bighorn River. Both of these projects were boat ramp developments which serve a necessary function to disperse the fishing pressure. Other construction projects are scheduled for spring and summer in 1984. Restoration of the Chief Plenty Coups Home at Chief Plenty Coups State Monument is moving forward to completion. It is the Region's plans to complete most of the external work this year.

The Region continues to work with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on surplus lands that might be disposed of in the future. Much review was given to travel plans, EIS reports, and private requests as they affect the department responsibilities.

The Region continues with construction and layout work on display panels to be utilized throughout the state. These panels have been very valuable to disseminate information to the public about Montana's State Park system. It is our objective to have display panels in every region as well as in our large parks and high public use areas.

Normal maintenance work continued at recreation areas as was needed. Visitation to all the recreation areas in Region 5 appeared up for 1983.



The Natural Bridge State Monument is located 28 miles south of Big Timber in the beautiful Boulder River valley. Some 50,000 visitors a year view the 70-foot waterfall and a natural bridge of rock that spans the river. The river mysteriously disappears into a hole and reappears one half mile below the falls.

Region 6

Regional fishing access site acquisition priorities were identified as part of a statewide effort. The Missouri River in the Snowden Bridge area was ranked first on the regional list and third on the statewide list. A spin-off of this was the involvement of the Phillips County Resource Unit of the BLM identifying some of their holdings along the Milk River for recreational development.

Research was conducted regarding "Sleeping Buffalo", a rock carving considered sacred by local Indians. It has the potential of being the focus of a state monument.

All Region 6 land holdings were intensively screened for noxious weeds, county weed boards were contacted and the wildlife division consulted, all resulting in a regional weed policy which was implemented this past spring.

Nelson Reservoir State Recreation Area was the site of a \$10,000 fish derby sponsored by a local Kiwanis Club, which cleared over \$4,000 for their efforts. The club has committed itself to returning roughly 50 percent of their earnings to the reservoir in the form of a boat ramp or other facilities.

Minor repairs to the spillway at Bear Paw Fishing Access Site were carried out, a headgate in the dam at the base bond was repaired, a boundary fence was erected around Bjornberg Bridge Fishing Access Site.

Training sessions attended included the 2-week Conservation Officer School in Bozeman, defensive driving course, two weed control workshops, studying various weed control manuals, and becoming licensed for restricted-use chemicals applications.

407/513

Region 7

Makoshika State Park is filling in its boundaries. Leases were completed for use of McCarty's land and two county sections. The Fish and Game Commission approved an exchange with the Bureau of Land Management acquiring more than three sections of land. We improved hiking and interpretive trails, completed a water system in the camp ground, and wrote three visitor brochures. Makoshika took a different shape with the construction of a "gusher" oil well and a second drilling rig, and more seismic exploration. Experience gained managing these developments in Makoshika State Park will help in the management of oil and gas development on all state lands.

The Tongue River Reservoir became a responsibility with a Department of Natural Resources lease and the donation of \$100,000 from Decker Coal Company for facilities. A new caretaker was hired and loads of garbage hauled away.

Doeden's Island (yet to be officially named) was the site of a Boy Scout Camporee with over 100 scouts participating.

Intake Fishing Access Site was better able to handle the rush of paddlefishermen because of two gut-hauling trailers, a lease of adjacent private land and a new caretaker. Law enforcement duties kept us busy controlling dogs and reducing the litter problem.

Dave Conklin reviewed the Rosebud Battlefield for the introduction of bison, and we received an offer for 55 free buffalo. Unfortunately, the fencing didn't come with the animals, so we will have to wait for a future opportunity. The Battlefield gained a wider audience through an article in Montana Outdoors and the first ever parks travelling display.

Gartside Reservoir was drained because of problems with the dam. This decreased the attractiveness of the park, but we gained public interest to campaign for improvements.

Snowmobiling in the area was dampened by a poor snow season but that didn't prevent us from firing up the new (slightly used in R-2) snowmobile and grooming trails in Spotted Eagle, and photographing snowmobile use in Makoshika.

We learned from the traffic counter information that the Rosebud State Recreation Area was receiving the most visits of any of the R-7 parks. A local group became interested and donated time, equipment and materials to clear brush from portions of the park.

Beth Ranz started as the new assistant park manager. She earned the role of conservation officer from a two week school at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, and the role of "Badlands Beth" during Wildlife Week presentations at the Miles City elementary schools.

Parks Division Personnel

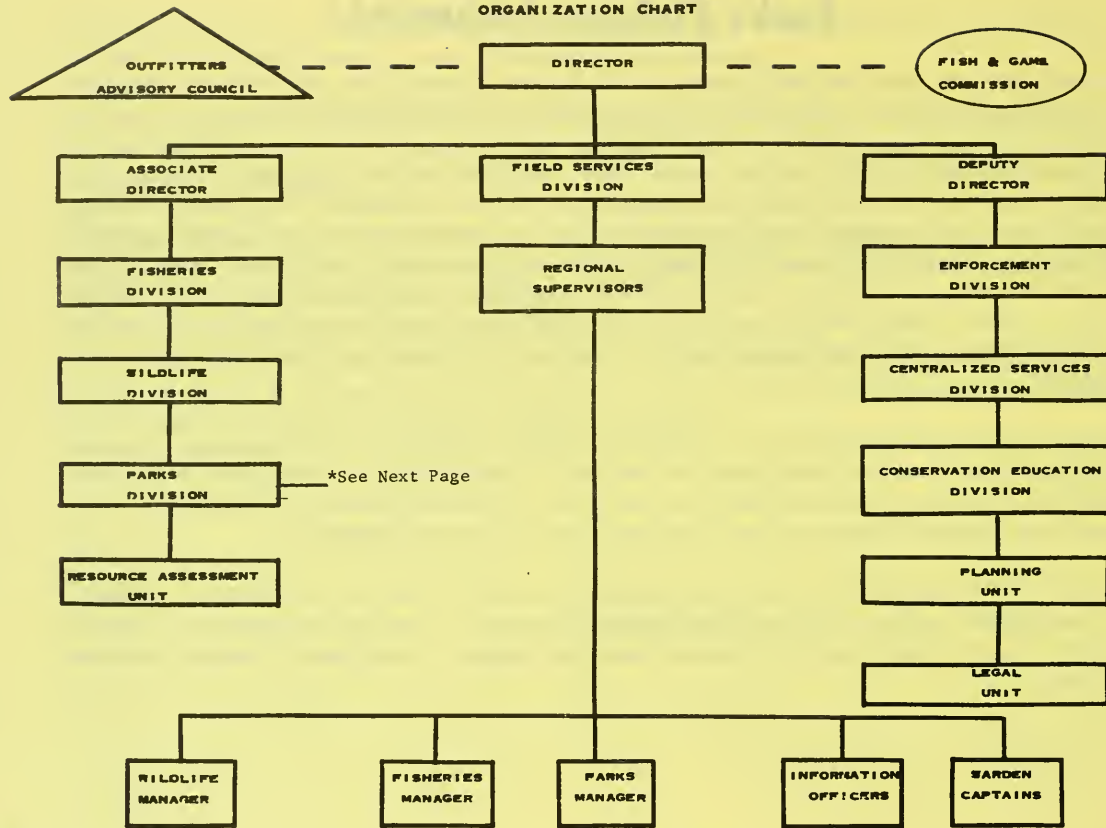
During Fiscal Year 1983, the Parks Division had 81.29 FTE's of which 41.60 were permanent employees and 39.69 were temporary. Helena people occupied 14.07 FTE's and 67.22 were in the field.

Personnel changes within the division during Fiscal Year 1983 involved a number of people. Ron Holliday resigned from the Administrator's position to take a job in Colorado. Don Hyyppa, Assistant Administrator was appointed Acting Administrator for the remainder of the fiscal year. Gretchen Olheiser was awarded the Bureau Chief position within the Planning and Project Bureau replacing Ron Aasheim who accepted a promotion earlier in the year. Gretchen's former Administrative Officer position was left vacant. Arlene Nelson transferred to the Centralized Services Division and was replaced by Janice Williamson. The Administrative Aide I position within the Design and Construction Bureau was eliminated.

Reclassification of the park manager job descriptions affected a number of our field personnel. Though their actual duties did not change, their job titles did. A Park Manager I is now classified as a Park Operations Specialist I; a Park Manager II is now a Park Operations Specialist II; a Park Manager III is now a Park Operations Supervisor; and a Park Manager IV is now a Park Manager I.

We were able to expand our number of field personnel by adding two new full-time positions. In Region 5, Gerald Walker came on as the new Parks Operations Specialist I. Beth Ranz was added to the Region 7 Parks crew in another new Parks Operations Specialist I position. No turnovers in the other positions occurred.

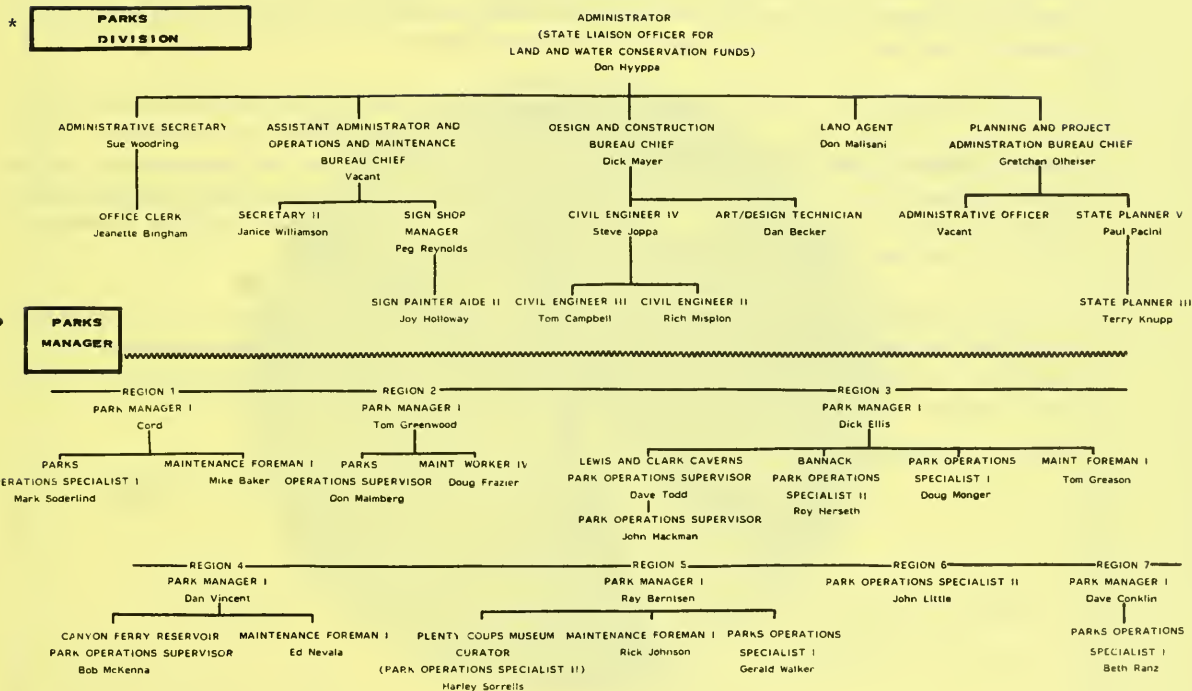
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
ORGANIZATION CHART



• See Next Page

PARKS DIVISION PERSONNEL CHART

June 30, 1983



Funding & Expenditures

Operations and maintenance funding for the Parks Division's activities comes from several sources. Some such as the General Fund, can be used in support of any legitimate park activity. Most, however, are earmarked--their use is restricted to specific sites or activities.

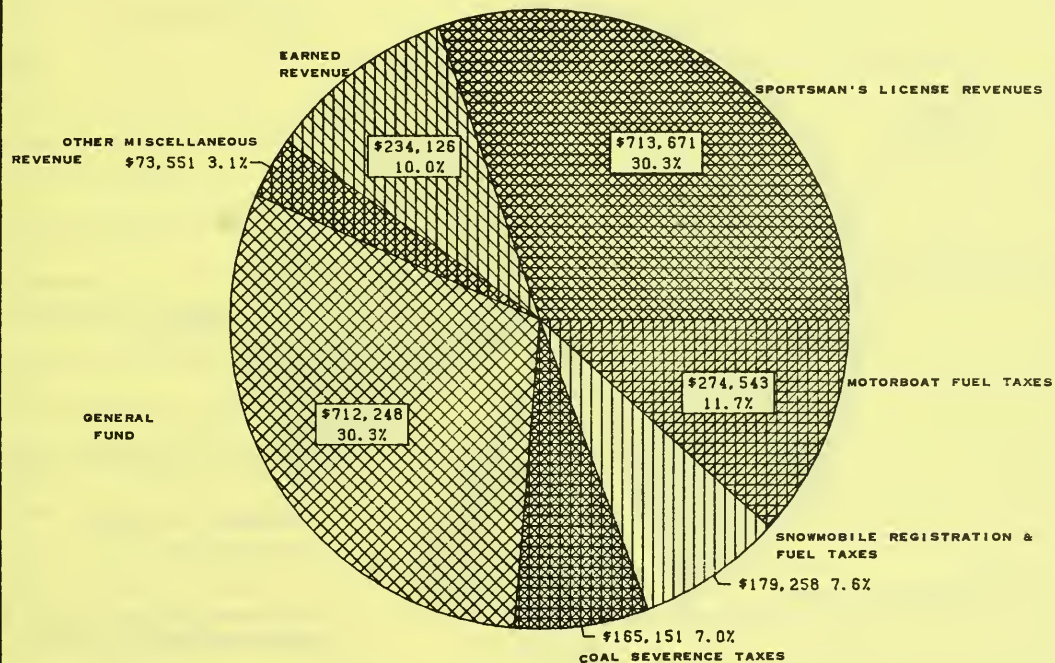
The Coal Severance Tax is used for the maintenance of sites purchased with interest from the Coal Tax Trust Fund (see page 14). The motorboat fuel tax is used for the operation and development of sites where motorboating takes place. Sportsmen's License Revenues are used for maintenance of fishing access and other heavily used sportsmen areas. Earned Revenue represents overnight camping fees and Lewis and Clark Cavern tour fees and cabin site leases. Other miscellaneous revenues include some federal sources such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and donations.

The 1983 Legislature made appropriations for the 1982-1983 biennium to each of the Department's management divisions. The next page reflects the Parks Division operation and maintenance activities for fiscal 1983. No capital expenditures are included--a further description of these can be found on pages 38 through 43 .

FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL \$2,352,548

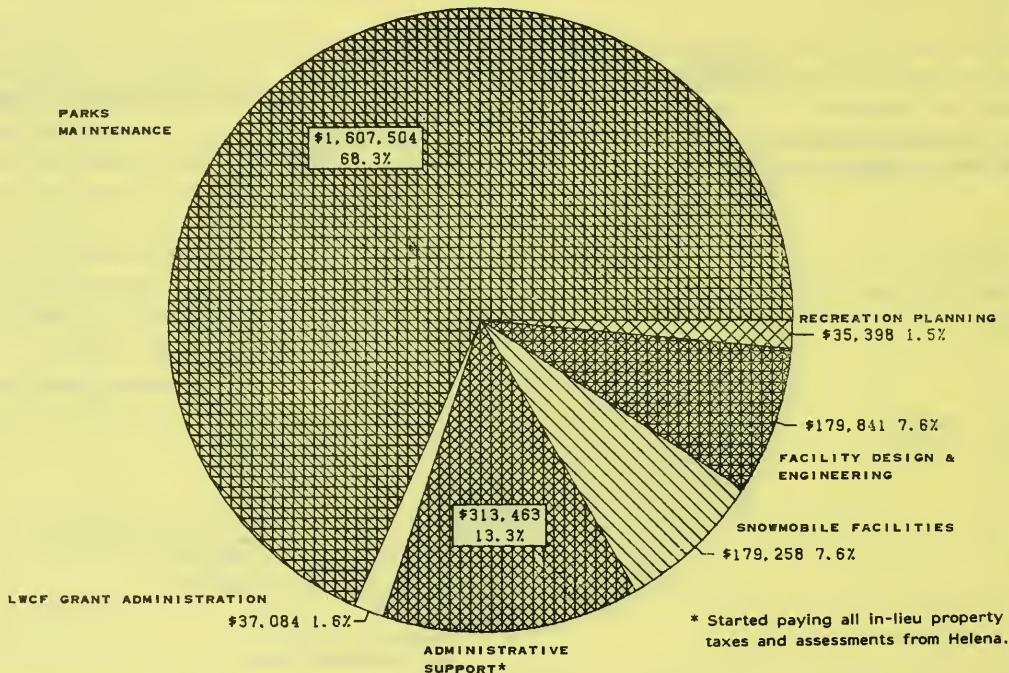
FISCAL YEAR 1983



HOW FUNDS WERE EXPENDED

TOTAL \$2,352,548

FISCAL YEAR 1983



* Started paying all in-lieu property taxes and assessments from Helena.

ARTICLES

Paul R. Pacini, "Outdoors in Montana," Montana Outdoors, March/April 1983, pp. 19-22.

Gretchen Olheiser, "Tripping on Wheels," Montana Outdoors, March/April 1983, pp. 6-7.

Paul R. Pacini, "Savor the Summer -- Visit a Park," Montana Outdoors, May/June 1983, pp. 32-33.

Paul R. Pacini, "The Emerald City of Moss," Montana Outdoors, May/June 1983, pp. 36-37.

_____, "A Park for all Reasons," Montana Outdoors, July/August 1983, pp. 18-19.

BROCHURES

Bannack State Park, (reprint) June 1983, 10,400 copies.

Beta al Lewis and Clark Caverns (reprint), June 1983, 7,000 copies.

Blackfoot River Guide, July 1982, 5,000 copies.

Coal Tax Acquisitions for Montana's State Park, Your Opportunity to Propose A Park, July 1982, 200 copies.

Coal Tax Park Proposals 1983, 112 pp., 250 copies.

Headwaters Herald (reprint), June 1983, 30,000 copies.

Lands Controlled by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, July 1982, December 1982, 48 pp., 250 copies.

Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park (reprint), June 1983, 50,000 copies

Outdoors in Montana, 1983 Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, March 1982, 113 pp., 1,000 copies.

Parks Perspective, Parks Division, March 1983, 62 pp., 300 copies.

Smith River Guide (reprint), Summer 1982, 2,000 copies.

Where We're Going, December 1982, 12 pp., 250 copies.

1983 LEGISLATURE - INFORMATIONAL PACKAGES

A Proposal for Fort Maginnis State Monument, 7 pp., 100 copies

A Proposal for Regional Headquarters Construction, 7 pp., 100 copies

Bannack State Park, A Look to the Future..., 12 pp., 350 copies.

Dan Rehabilitation, 100 copies.

Elkhorn Buildings Sissolization, Elkhorn State Monument, 100 copies.

Fishing Access Site Acquisitions, 100 copies.

Fishing Access Site Protection, 100 copies.

Fish Hatcheries: Renovation, Repair, and Relocation, 100 copies.

Giant Springs/Heritage State Park On-going Development, 100 copies.

Kalspell Headquarters Storage, 100 copies.

Lake and Stream Improvements, 100 copies.

Makoshika State Park Road Improvements, 100 copies.

Mount Maginnis Fence Construction, 100 copies.

Regional and Helena Headquarters Remodeling and Central Plant Maintenance, 100 copies.

Rosebud Battlefield State Monument, 100 copies.

South Sandstone State Recreation Area, 100 copies.

Spring Meadow Lake State Recreation Area, 6 pp., 100 copies

Streambed Preservation, 100 copies.

Wildlife Management Area Acquisitions, 100 copies.

Wildlife Management Area Maintenance, 100 copies.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bannack Days Placemats, July 1982, 20,000 copies. Prepared for use in advertising Bannack Days 1982.

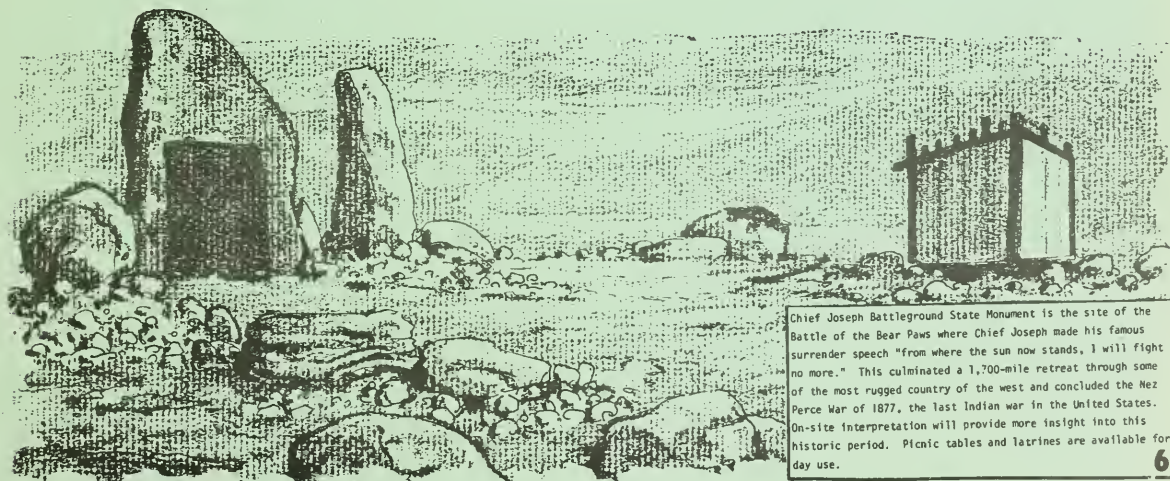
Richard B. Aram, Cenozoic Geomorphic History Relating to Lewis and Clark Caverns, Montana, (reprint-first printed June, 1979), July 1982, 150 pp., 100 copies. Master's thesis reprinted with the author's permission and sold at Lewis and Clark Caverns.

Lewis and Clark Caverns Tour Tickets, May 1983, 50,000 tickets

Chapter 3

LOOKING AHEAD

1984 LWCF Local Community Expenditure Priorities..	69
1984 LWCF Ranking	70
Facility Standards	71
Local LWCF Adequacy	73
1988 SCORP Cycle	74



Chief Joseph Battleground State Monument is the site of the Battle of the Bear Paws where Chief Joseph made his famous surrender speech "from where the sun now stands, I will fight no more." This culminated a 1,700-mile retreat through some of the most rugged country of the west and concluded the Nez Perce War of 1877, the last Indian war in the United States. On-site interpretation will provide more insight into this historic period. Picnic tables and latrines are available for day use.



TED SCHWINDEN
GOVERNOR

State of Montana
Office of the Governor
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Reader:

Since 1965, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has administered the Land and Water Conservation Fund, providing nearly 27 million dollars to more than 600 state and local outdoor recreation projects. Many Montanans, especially in our rural communities, would not have the recreational opportunities now available -- such as swimming pools, ballfields, and parks -- if it were not for this fund.

I take pleasure in endorsing this program and the action plan contained in the following pages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ted Schwinden".

TED SCHWINDEN
Governor
State of Montana

1984 LWCF Local Community Expenditure Priorities

Applications for grants for Federal Fiscal 1984 were accepted from any school district, county, municipal or Indian tribal government in Montana until November 1, 1983, for LWCF grants-in-aid. The responses received directly reflect the outdoor recreational needs perceived by Montana's local communities. These needs have been prioritized by their request frequency.

	<u>Request Frequency</u>	<u>Priority</u>
Local Park Development	45	1
Golf Course Development	18	2
Swimming and Wading Pool		
Improvement or Construction	13	3
Multi Purpose Court Development	5	4
Softball Complex Development	5	4
Tennis Court Development	5	4
Campground Development	3	5
Rifle Range Development	3	5
Rodeo Arena Development	3	5
Total	100	

The application of the evaluation criteria found on pages 109 to 113 of Montana's 1983 SCORP has resulted in the distribution depicted in the following chart. Grants will be awarded to the top ranking projects until the local allocation of \$236,184 is distributed. This would provide partial funding for rank number 9 and full funding for all those above.

The priorities listed above indicate that "local park development" is most needed statewide.

Correspondingly, seven out of the top nine are park development related.

1984 LWCF Ranking

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>LWCF \$</u>	<u>Cumulative \$</u>
1	86.6	Missoula	Caras Park Improvements	\$45,139.50	\$ 45,139.50
2	84.2	Big Fork SD#38	Recreation Area	36,000.00	81,139.50
3	80.0	Seeley Lake SD #34	Community Park	25,000.00	106,139.50
4	80.0	Virginia City	Community Park	13,101.50	119,241.00
5	77.0	Fallon County	Rifle Range and Trap Shoot	31,250.00	150,491.00
6	73.6	Sidney	Three Parks Improvement	26,000.00	176,491.00
7	73.4	Anaconda/Deer Lodge	West Valley Park Imp.	11,000.00	187,491.00
8	73.2	Ravalli County	Florence Community Park	13,083.00	200,574.00
9	70.0	Wyola SC #29	Pool and Recreation Area	*50,000.00	250,574.00
10	67.7	Wolf Point	Borge Park Improvements	50,000.00	300,574.00
11	67.5	Meagher County	Golf Course	*50,000.00	350,574.00
12	65.0	Confederate Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Five Recreation Area	36,062.00	386,636.00
13	65.0	Lavina	Multi-purpose Court	8,250.00	394,886.00
14	64.9	Lincoln Co. High School	Eureka Tennis Court Imp.	5,400.00	400,286.00
15	63.3	Billings	Riverfront Park III	*50,000.00	450,286.00
16	60.0	Big Timber	Tennis Courts	13,000.00	463,286.00
17	57.0	Hardin	Four Parks Improvements	5,000.00	468,286.00
18	56.3	Lewistown	Softball Complex	50,000.00	518,286.00
19	55.0	Three Forks	Golf Course	*50,000.00	568,286.00
20	53.5	Dawson County	Hollecker Lake Recreation Area	11,000.00	579,286.00
21	50.0	Roundup	Park and Golf Course Imp.	25,900.00	605,186.00
22	47.0	Fallon County	Horse Arena	*50,000.00	655,186.00
23	46.4	Missoula County	Golf Course Addition	37,250.00	692,436.00
24	42.9	Shelby	Golf Course Improvements	38,000.00	730,436.00
25	35.7	Cascade	Black Eagle Park Additions	2,285.00	732,721.00
26	35.3	Chinook	Pool Cover	3,000.00	735,721.00
27	34.3	Stanford	Pool Cover	1,600.00	737,321.00
28	23.4	Sweet Grass County	Golf Course Improvements	6,000.00	743,321.00

* Request exceeded \$50,000.00

Facility Standards

Certain recreation activities require special facilities, ranging from rather simple development to elaborate and costly construction, such as swimming pools. Accordingly, these activities are provided for on a more limited basis, directly related to the economics of the situation, and to the proportionate use of the facility. Over a period of years, the municipalities have arrived at general relationships between the number of facilities and the population. The following general standards have been found to be appropriate for cities and towns in Montana.

The standards are stated in terms of one recreation facility per unit of population served. Each community however is entitled to at least one facility of each type unless otherwise noted in the respective standard. For example, communities of less than 1,500 population will be entitled to one tennis court, although the standards are one per 1,500 total population served. Thereafter, the standard would be applied in increments of 1,500 population. Thus a community between 1,500 and 3,000 population would be entitled to 2 tennis courts.

These standards are used in the evaluation process involved in the allocation of Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to local communities for outdoor recreation projects. It is recognized that not all communities will find it desirable to bring each of their facilities up to these standards, due to lack of participation or cost factors.

The evaluation of need in a particular community however, will not be specific to the particular facility requested, but will be an overview of total need. In other words a community may be eligible for more tennis courts than the standards indicate if it chooses to build fewer than the standard number of ballfields, swimming pools or other facilities.

Communities applying for LWCF assistance for an outdoor recreation project will be ranked according to the following formula.

$$\text{Rank} = 10 \left(1 - \frac{\text{Have}}{\text{Need}} \right)$$

"Rank" is a numerical value where 10 indicates the highest priority.

"Have" refers to the number of facilities the community actually has according to the latest local facility survey.

"Need" refers to the number of facilities a community should have based upon its population and the facility standards.

Montana Facility Standards

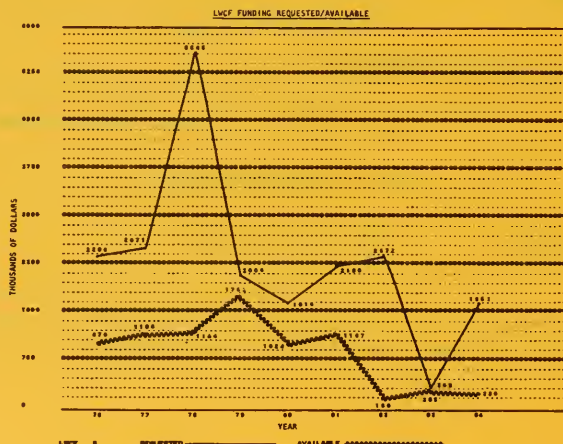
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Tennis court | 1 court per 1,500 population |
| 2. Ballfield (softball or hardball) | 1 field per 1,000 population |
| 3. Basketball court | 1 court per 1,500 population |
| 4. Playground apparatus area | 1 per 1,000 population |
| 5. Swimming pools
(Do not include wading or spray pools.) | 1 per 10,000 population |
| 6. Artificial ice rinks
(None in communities under 30,000.) | 1 per 30,000 population |
| 7. Natural ice rinks
(Rinks dependent upon weather conditions.) | 1 per 10,000 population |
| 8. Golf course | 1-9 hole increment per 12,000 population |
| 9. Firing/archery range | 1 per 50,000 population |
| 10. Community/neighborhood park | 1 per 1,000 population |

Local LWCF Adequacy

LWCF assistance to local communities fell short of the requests received in 1976 for the first time since 1965. Since 1976 requests for assistance significantly out distanced the LWCF assistance available with one exception in 1983. Grant applications in 1983 took a "nose-dive" as a result of the presidential recision of all funding in the year previous. (See chart.)

Local grant applications in 1984 total \$1,563,096. However, only 15 percent of this demand could be met with the \$236,184 of LWCF assistance available. Except for the period of the 1982 recision, the demand for LWCF assistance has remained pretty consistent, while actual funding has been sliding downhill as seen in the chart.

It is probably a valid assumption that this situation is similar on a national scale and it is truly unfortunate that the demand for outdoor recreational development cannot be more nearly matched by assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



1988 SCORP Cycle

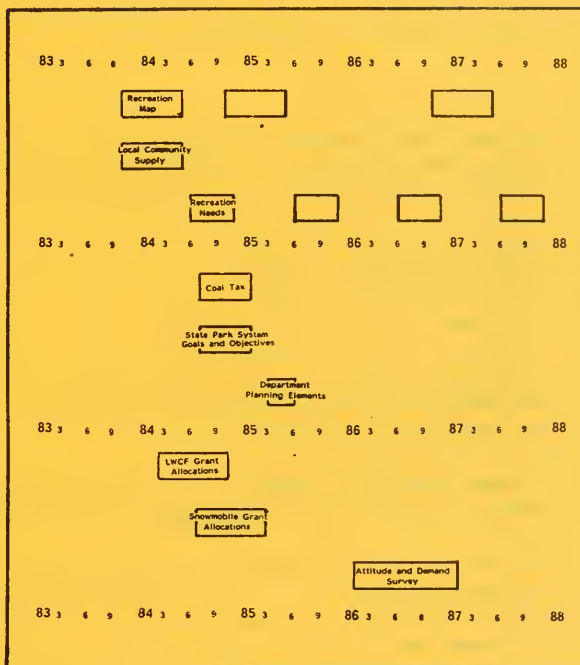
The 1988 planning cycle will be funded by state sources rather than a LWCF planning grant. A grant application for an occasional specific planning element may be submitted.

The entire five-year planning cycle will consist of a series of planning elements designed to address needs and related LWCF grants in both the state park system and at the local level. Planning elements will address interagency activities when these activities involve LWCF grants administered by the State of Montana.

As each element is completed it will be printed and made available for distribution to interested parties including the National Park Service. To mark the completion of the planning cycle, each element will be available under a single cover.

Anticipated elements of the planning cycle are depicted in the following SCORP Planning Cycle chart.

SCORP Planning Cycle



Time is allowed on this schedule for the addition of newly described project elements. Such flexibility is valuable when trying to respond to fluid recreational needs.

The elements now identified for the coming SCORP planning cycle are more fully described in the following paragraphs.

Recreation Map (October-May, alternating seasons). In the winter of 1982-83, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks cooperated with the Montana Promotion Bureau of the state Department of Commerce to produce a Recreation Map depicting all state and federal camping and dayuse facilities in the state for use by recreationists. This map constitutes an excellent administrative supply document for this kind of facility. To keep the map current, it is intended to be updated and improved, each winter in preparation for the coming season, through 1985. During subsequent years updates will take place during alternating winters.

Local Community Supply (October 1983 - May 1984). The adequacy of the recreational facility supply at the local level is considered in the selection process for awarding local LWCF grants. The last local supply inventory was done in 1979 and is in need of updating. A survey form and mailing list has been prepared by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The College of Great Falls' Recreation Department volunteered to administer the survey as a class project. The survey process is nearing its completion at this time.

Recreation Needs (June - November 1984). This has been completed for 1984 and is found at the beginning of the "Looking Forward" section of this publication under the title "1984 LWCF Local Community Expenditure Priorities."

Coal Tax (July 1984 - June 1985). The states coal severance tax trust fund presently may be used to acquire sites for the State Park System and to operate and maintain sites so acquired. The Montana State Park System is now attempting to operate and maintain some 314 sites statewide and it has become questionable if acquisition of additional responsibilities at the present rate should be the highest priority use of the coal tax revenue. Options for using more of this revenue for the development, operation and maintenance of the state park system, will be researched. If viable alternatives are identified and appear to have support, proposals may be submitted to the state legislature.

State Park System Goals and Objectives (July 1984 - January 1985). The Montana State Park system criteria have remained essentially unchanged for eleven years. The primary criteria as well as goals and objectives of the Park System will be defined and documented to act as a beacon for future Park System management.

Department Planning Elements (March - June 1985). A high level Department-wide planning effort is underway at this time, to provide guidance for budgetary requests to be made in the 1985 legislature and long range goals and objectives through 1990. Each of the three Department programs are being given individual attention. These three programs are Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Upon completion of this effort, its major elements will be documented in published form and considered part of the SCORP.

LWCF (March 1984 - October 1984) and Snowmobile Grant Allocations (July 1984 - March 1985). The selection criteria for the allocation of both snowmobile and LWCF grants has worked well in the past. However, due to the increase in applications over recent years and the sum of revenue involved, as well as changing conditions, a periodic review of the selection criteria is valuable to ensure efficiency and equitability.

Attitude and Demand Survey (January 1986 - January 1987). In December of 1980, the survey entitled "Attitudes-Outdoor Recreation in Montana" was published. This is an extensive statewide telephone survey which measures participation rates in various recreation activities, determines the public's satisfaction with the states' outdoor recreation facilities and measures their desire for specific changes in management practices. These survey results have been very useful in making management decisions. To continue the advantage this kind of data provides to Park System administration and statewide outdoor recreation management, it must be updated from time to time. A similar survey is planned for 1986. In 1980, the project was contracted to the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. The 1986 survey will probably be contracted out as well, but the contractor is not known at this time.



***Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks***